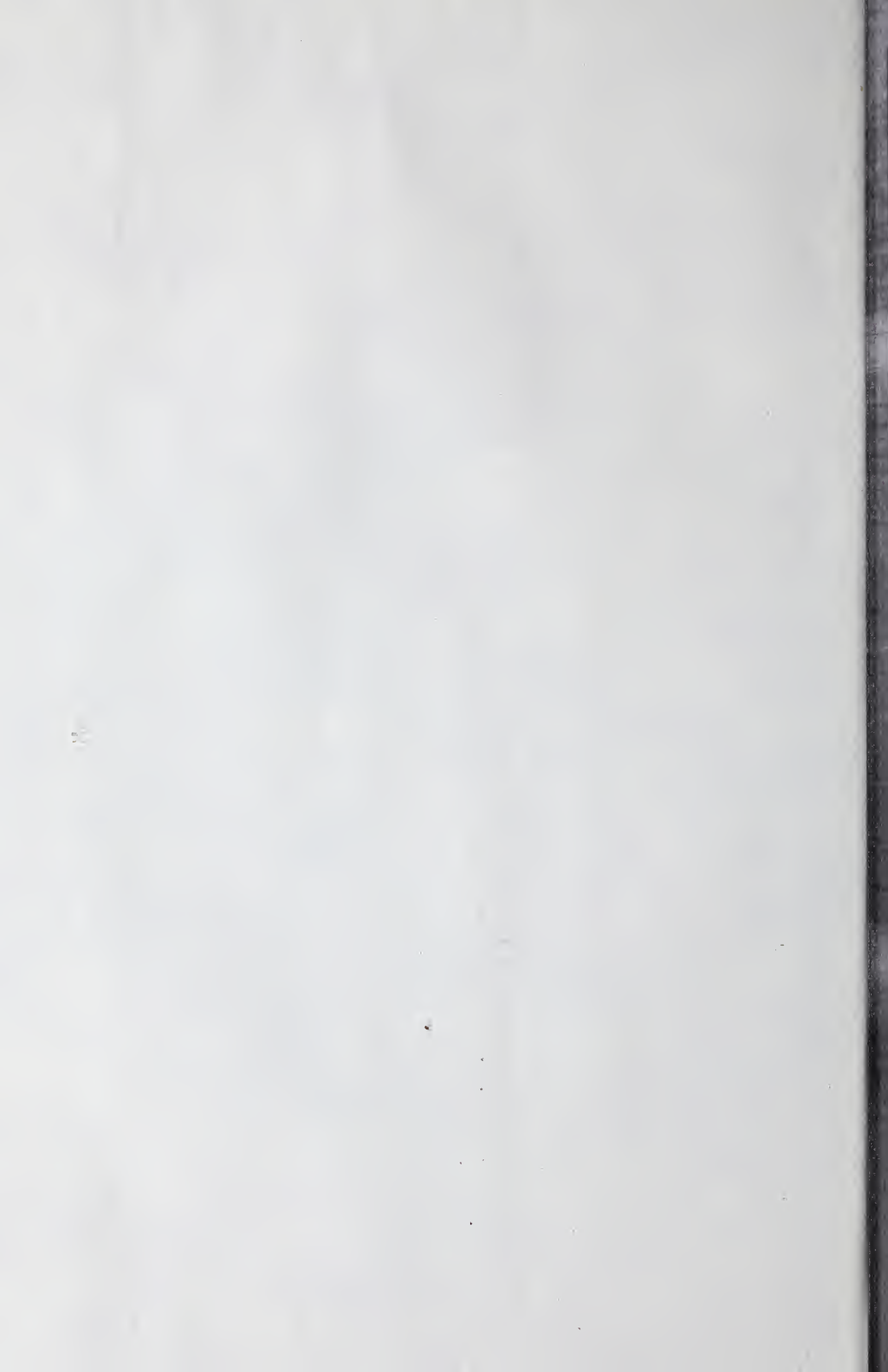


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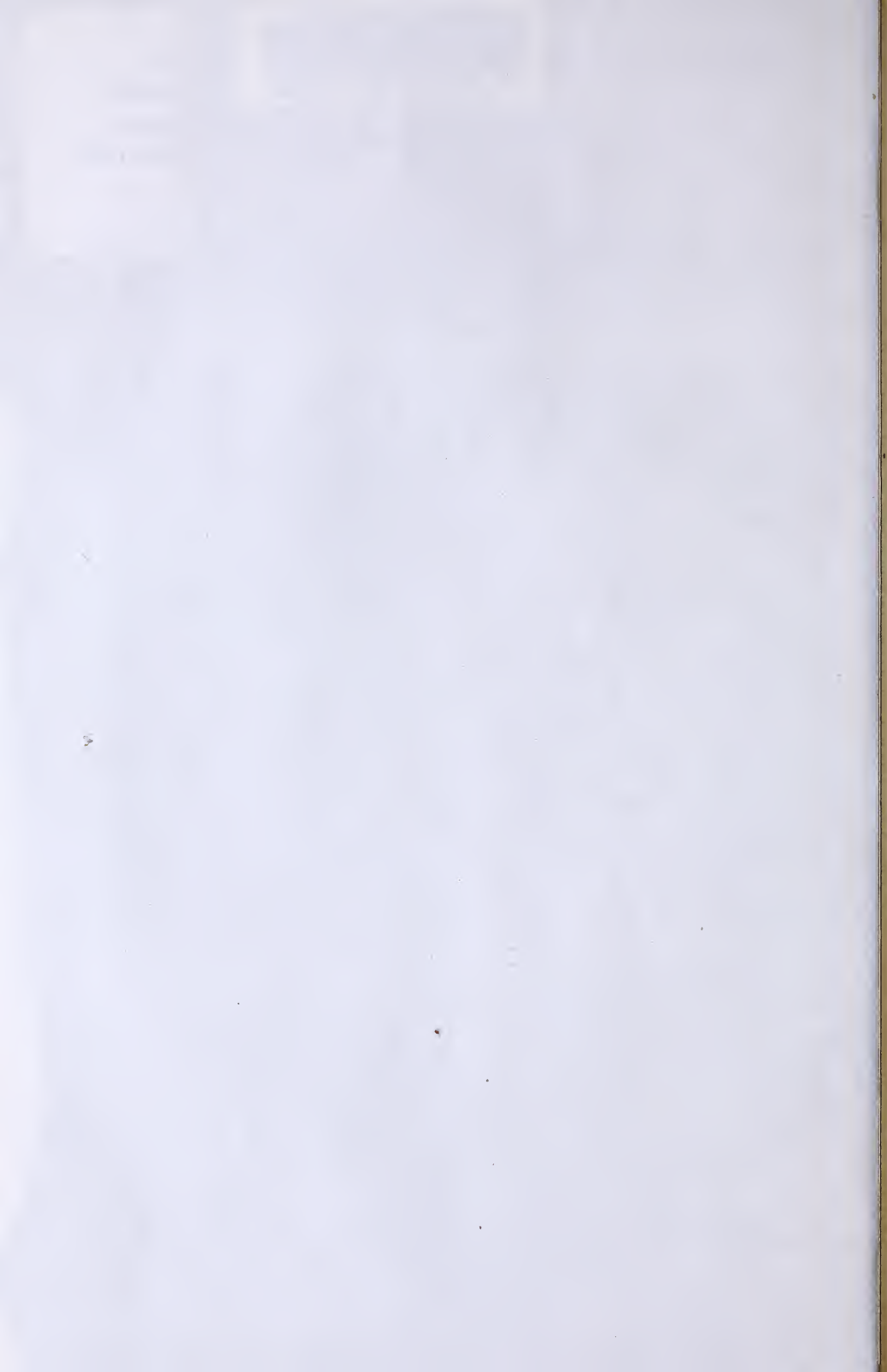
ANNUAL REPORT
—OF THE—
SELECTMEN OF SHIRLEY

—TOGETHER WITH A—
Report of the Treasurer, Assessors, Overseers of the Poor,
Fire Department, Trustees of the Public Library,
Auditors, Items from the Town Clerk's
Book, and Town Warrant,

—ALSO, THE—
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

—FOR THE—
YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1896.

AYER, MASS. :
WILLIAM M. SARGENT, PRINTER.
1896.



ANNUAL REPORT

—OF THE—

Receipts and Expenditures

—OF THE—

TOWN OF SHIRLEY

WITH OTHER

STATISTICAL MATTER,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1896.

AYER, MASS. :
WILLIAM M. SARGENT, PRINTER.
1896.

Town Officers for the Year 1895-96.

Town Clerk,

Jonas Longley.

Selectmen,

G. M. Ballou, Stillman P. Holden, Henry M. Holden.

Treasurer,

Henry Edgerton.

Assessors,

Melvin W. Longley, B. S. Binney, Thos. L. Hazen.

School Committee,

Henry Edgerton, N. J. Rowell, F. L. Keith.

Auditors,

E. L. White, J. W. Thacher.

Trustees of Public Library,

W. H. Wilbur,	M. M. Nickless,	M. J. Conant,
N. J. Rowell,	M. J. Hazen,	F. L. Kieth.

Tax Collector,

S. B. Scott.

ANNUAL REPORTS.

REPORT OF THE SELECTMEN.

SHIRLEY, MASS., March 1, 1896.

To the Voters of the Town of Shirley :

Gentlemen: The Selectmen hereby submit the following report of their work for the year which ends March 1, 1896:

Estimates for the Year 1896-7.

Salaries,	\$500 00	
Incidentals,	500 00	
	————	\$1000 00
Schools,	\$2200 00	
School supplies,	150 00	
Transportation,	100 00	
Superintendent,	200 00	
Tuition,	150 00	
	————	2800 00
Highways,	\$800 00	
Bridges,	100 00	
Railings,	100 00	
	————	1000 00
Marking trees,		10 00

Fire Department,	\$250 00
Interest,	375 00
Library,	200 00
Cemetery,	25 00
Memorial,	25 00
Poor,	2200 00
	<hr/>
	\$7885 00

Town Incidentals.

Appropriation,	\$500 00
J. C. Ayers, election officer,	\$3 00
Edward Richardson, election officer,	6 00
J. A. Hume, election officer,	3 00
J. H. Logue, election officer,	6 00
Michael F. Day, election officer,	3 00
Huntley S. Turner, printing,	102 05
W. H. Wilbur, agent, express,	50
Homer Wilson, damages,	25 00
L. L. Warren, election officer,	6 00
J. F. Brown, sexton,	34 25
Estate of Gilbert Cook, watering trough,	9 00
S. B. Scott, inspector of cattle,	80 10
G. W. Southworth, printing,	75
C. E. Young, election officer,	3 00
C. H. Andrews,	3 00
J. F. Brown, lettering monument,	5 00
Wm. M. Sargent, printing,	4 00
P. B. Murphy, supplies,	2 40

A. W. Brownell, assessors' books,	\$5 95
M. W. Longley, express,	35
R. W. Savage, watering trough,	3 00
Conant Bros. & Co., supplies,	35
H. E. Lawrence, watering trough,	3 00
W. H. Wilbur, typewriting,	2 00
G. M. Ballou, sundries,	5 13
Thos. L. Hazen, express,	75
B. S. Binney, express,	75
S. R. Holden, sexton,	35 50
Jonas Longley, express and postage,	2 33
Geo. Farnsworth, election officer,	6 00
D. C. Parsons, election officer,	3 00
Mail Pub. Co., printing,	3 30
J. P. Hazen, rent of dump land,	5 00
T. K. Fiske, watering trough,	3 00
Samuel Farnsworth, wood, town house	2 50
R. M. Priest, painting,	1 87
National Bank, Ayer, interest on loan,	31 55
H. C. Sherwin, fines,	5 90
John H. Nickless, election officer,	3 00
Henry Edgarton, postage, express, etc.,	6 10
Wm. Park, dog warrants,	3 50
H. S. Hazen, election officer,	5 00
Jonas Longley, recording deaths, etc.,	23 20
E. L. White, wood, town house,	3 50
W. Wright & Son, repairs town map,	25
A. F. Fernald, returning births,	1 50
S. P. Holden, care of hall,	8 00
S. P. Holden, postage, etc.,	54
J. W. Farrar, supplies, town house,	3 11
	<hr/> \$474 98

Poor.

Appropriation,	\$1750 00
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AID TO LEVI BLOOD.

B. H. Hartwell, M. D.,	\$3 00	
Mary L. Newman,	47 25	
S. P. Holden,	20	50.45
	<hr/>	47 45

AID TO MRS. ANDREWS. ✓

Town of Harvard,	237 28
------------------	--------

AID TO JOHN FLETCHER. ✓

Town of Harvard,	123 70
------------------	--------

AID TO BENJAMIN FARMER. ✓

Town of Harvard,	159 73
------------------	--------

AID TO MRS. HARTWELL.

Town of Harvard,	45 00
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AID TO DANIEL HOLDEN. ✓

Town of Harvard,	\$179 45	
Wm. M. Park,	1 00	
	<hr/>	180 45

AID TO CAROLINE ORCUTT.

Mrs. E. F. Cowdrey,	\$160 00	
A. F. Fernald, M. D.,	2 60	
	<hr/>	162 60

AID TO HARLEY STEBBINS. (STATE)

Conant Bros. & Co.	\$ 70
Geo. F. Lewis,	19 00

Wm. M. Park, time and expense,		
Tewksbury,	\$4 64	
A. F. Fernald, M. D.,	17 20	
	<hr/>	\$41 54

AID TO MARY DALEY.

Town of Groton,	\$42 45	
Town of Ayer,	10 16	
G. M. Ballou,	20	
	<hr/>	52 81

AID TO MARY WASHINGTON.

Worcester Lunatic Asylum,	169 46
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AID TO CHAS. WHEELER.

Worcester Lunatic Asylum,	169 46
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AID TO MRS. FOSTER.

Worcester Lunatic Asylum,	42 71
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AID TO HARRY WILKINSON AND FAMILY. (STATE)

Mrs. Jennie Hoffnagle, nursing,	\$29 00	
J. F. Brown, burying child,	10 25	
A. F. Fernald, M. D.,	61 05	
	<hr/>	100 30

AID TO CARRIE WASHINGTON.

Town of Groton,	39 00
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AID TO MARY BRUSO.

Conant Bros. & Co.,	\$62 75	
A. F. Fernald, M. D.,	27 28	
H. O. Peasley,	12 00	
	<hr/>	102 03

AID TO MRS. MCGINNIS AND FAMILY.

Conant Bros. & Co.,	\$75 00	
A. F. Fernald, M. D.,	15 50	
	<hr/>	\$90 50

AID TO MRS. SEYMOUR AND FAMILY.

G. M. Ballou,	\$ 50	
H. O. Peasley,	74 75	
	<hr/>	75 25

AID TO MRS. BURNO.

H. O. Peasley,	\$34 00	
A. F. Fernald, M. D.,	15 25	
	<hr/>	49 25

AID TO MRS. GORDON.

H. O. Peasley,		10 00
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AID TO MRS. GLEASON.

A. F. Fernald, M. D.,		8 00
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Tramps.

G. M. Ballou, aid,	\$13 90	
H. O. Peasley,	20	
Mrs. Agnes Stewart,	8 50	
D. Bruce,	61 00	
	<hr/>	\$83 60
Total,		<hr/> \$2093 12

State Aid.

Amount to be repaid by State,		\$457 00
Henry T. Balcom,	\$15 00	
Oliver W. Balcom,	12 00	
Jeremiah Flynn,	48 00	
Mary Gately,	32 00	
Mary A. Howard,	46 00	
Julia O'Keefe,	32 00	
Ann M. Lawrence,	32 00	
George F. Lewis,	48 00	
Wm. R. McLellan,	48 00	
Johanna O'Neil,	48 00	
Lydia Ramsdell,	48 00	
Eliza A. Travis,	12 00	
Joel C. Neat,	26 00	
	<hr/>	\$457 00

Military Aid.

Amount to be repaid by State,		\$30 00
Daniel Finnegan,	\$48 00	
Wm. H. Cram,	12 00	
	<hr/>	\$60 00

Salaries.

Appropriation,		\$550 00
D. Chester Parsons, selectman, '94-5,	\$5 00	
Thos. L. Hazen, assessor,	50 00	
B. S. Binney, assessor,	60 00	

M. W. Longley, assessor,	\$50 00	
Mrs. N. J. Rowell, school committee,	50 00	
Henry Edgerton, school committee,	35 00	
F. L. Keith, school committee,	14 00	
Jonas Longley, town clerk,	20 00	
Jonas Longley, registrar,	7 00	
Henry Edgerton, treasurer,	65 00	
Wm. M. Park, constable,	6 00	
G. M. Ballou, selectman,	75 00	
S. P. Holden, selectman,	60 00	
Henry M. Holden, selectman,	36 00	
Henry M. Holden, registrar,	5 00	
G. M. Ballou,	5 00	
Stillman P. Holden, registrar,	5 00	
	<hr/>	\$548 00

Cemetery Trust.

Income from Longley fund,	\$19 00	
Income from Henry fund,	19 00	
Income from Gardner fund,	19 00	
	<hr/>	\$57 00
Henry T. Green,	\$10 35	
Patrick Shucrowe,	2 25	
J. F. Brown,	25 05	
Chas. H. Parmenter,	7 60	
	<hr/>	\$45 25

Centre Cemetery

Appropriation,		\$25 00
G. C. West,	\$4 50	
C. A. Longley,	6 25	
Hugh Mitchel,	4 00	
	<hr/>	\$14 75

Trust Funds.*Deposited with the International Trust Co.*

Israel Longley School Fund,	\$6000 00
Israel Longley Cemetery Fund,	500 00
Jerome Gardner Cemetery Fund,	500 00
Parker School Fund,	5040 57
John Henry Cemetery Fund,	500 00

In hands of Town Treasurer.

Geo. Rice Cemetery Fund,	\$100 00
Nathaniel Day Cemetery Fund,	200 00
George Chandler Cemetery Fund,	100 00

Fire Department.

Appropriation,	\$400 00
W. A. Sawtell, care of engine house,	\$4 16
J. F. O'Neil, treasurer, salaries en-	
ginemen,	283 64
A. A. Warner, supplies,	50
Conant Bros. & Co., supplies,	37
J. A. Hume, fire engineer,	10 00
G. M. Ballou, wood,	1 50
H. A. Sawtell, care of engine,	10 00
	<hr/> \$310 17

Library.

Appropriation,	\$300 00
New England Magazine,	\$6 00
Lorin Hosley, binding books,	12 25

Estes & Lauriet,	\$70 79
Huntley S. Turner,	12 50
W. B. Clark,	49 53
W. H. Crossman,	11 62
Conant Bros. & Co.,	22 73
Paine Furniture Co.,	65 00
F. R. R. Company,	1 23
S. B. Scott,	1 50
G. M. Ballou,	2 50
R. F. Colburn,	4 05
R. H. White & Co.,	12 65
J. C. Ayers,	12 50
J. E. L. Hazen,	5 00
J. B. Millett & Co.,	22 50
	<hr/> \$312 35

Marking Trees.

Appropriation,	\$50 00
Leon C. Holden, labor,	\$1 00
Harry P. Barnard, labor,	3 00
Henry M. Holden, labor,	4 00
S. P. Holden, labor,	4 40
National Express Co.,	45
	<hr/> \$12 85

Interest.

Appropriation,	\$300 00
International Trust Co.,	\$159 94
North Middlesex Savings Bank,	63 00

First National Bank, Ayer,	\$90 00	
M. M. Nickless, treas.,	55 00	
	<hr/>	\$367 94

Memorial Day.

Appropriation,	\$50 00
J. C. C. Parker and J. P. Thompson, G. A. R. committee,	\$50 00

Enforcement of Law.

Appropriation,	\$500 00
G. W. Crawford,	\$3 50
G. W. Simmonds, supplies,	8 00
Samuel O. Aborn,	3 50
G. M. Ballou,	6 29
Samuel Sandlin, police work,	81 80
T. H. Higham, detective work,	108 17
H. E. Lawrence, police work,	4 40
A. A. Fillebrown,	5 00
Geo. J. Burns, counsel,	45 00
Wm. M. Park, fees, etc.,	10 13
H. A. Sawtell, fees, etc.,	3 92
W. H. Cram,	2 50
	<hr/>
	\$282 21

Summary of Expenditures.

Poor,	\$2093 12
Schools,	3332 07

Highways,	\$767 09
Bridges,	107 09
Railings,	63 16
Guide Boards,	6 98
Snow,	96 15
Memorial Day,	50 00
Interest,	367 94
State Aid,	457 98
Military Aid,	60 00
Cemetery Trust,	45 25
Town Cemetery,	14 75
Library,	312 35
Incidentals,	474 98
Enforcement of Law,	282 21
Fire Department,	310 17
Salaries,	548 00
Marking Trees,	12 85
Superintendent of Schools,	156 25

Total town expenditures for 1895, \$9557 41

Total town expenditures for 1894, \$10,677 81

Temporary loans,	\$2000 00
State tax,	710 46
County tax,	450 00
	<hr/> \$3160 46

Total amount of orders drawn, \$12,717 87

Financial Condition.

INDEBTEDNESS.

Parker School Fund,	\$2639 46
Betsy D. Hazen, note,	1400 00
I. Longley School Fund,	1000 00
Geo. S. Wells, note,	200 00
Universalist Society, note,	1100 00
Ayer Banks,	2000 00
	<hr/> \$8339 46

ASSETS.

Cash balance,	\$2873 88
Due from Collector, 1895,	900 39
Due from State for State and Military Aid,	108 00
Due from State for aid to Wilkinson family,	100 30
Due from State for aid to Harley Stebbins,	41 54
Due from State for aid to Chas. Edwards,	130 40
Due from Mr. Foster, aid to Mrs. Foster,	42 71
	<hr/> \$4197 22

Balance against the town, March 1, 1896, \$4142 24

G. M. BALLOU,
STILLMAN P. HOLDEN,
HENRY M. HOLDEN,
Selectmen of Shirley.

ERRATUM.

Due from the State towards paying the Superintendent of schools, \$200 00

Highway.

Appropriation,		\$900 00
R. F. Colburn, labor,	\$3 60	
Geo. L. Fairbanks, labor,	42 50	
Geo. S. Wells, labor,	116 15	
Amos L. Parker, labor,	73 25	
Gideon C. West, labor,	74 88	
Luther E. Holden, labor,	32 65	
S. B. Scott, labor,	3 50	
American Road Machine Co., scraper cutter,	8 50	
Michael Goinet, labor,	35 20	
Chas. E. Young, labor and gravel,	187 70	
Dennis O'Neil, labor,	59 31	
Harry P. Barnard, labor,	36 60	
Nelson Brasseau, labor,	3 25	
Leon C. Holden, labor,	28 80	
C. H. Miner, repairs to tools,	5 55	
A. B. Bessey, gravel,	3 00	
Conant Bros. & Co., tools, etc.,	1 95	
Samuel Sandlin, labor,	31 35	
Thos. L. Hazen, gravel,	1 70	
B. S. Binney, gravel,	3 40	
M. W. Longley, gravel,	4 70	
N. A. Holden, repairs to tools,	2 25	
Theophile Lambert, gravel,	1 50	
J. W. Farrar, plow point,	50	
S. P. Holden, labor and repairs to tools,	5 30	
		<hr/> \$767 09

Railings.*Appropriation Railing and Bridges.*

Henry M. Holden, labor,	\$1 00	
Chas. E. Young, labor,	15 20	
G. C. West, labor,	2 15	
E. A. Jenkins, railing,	16 34	
Samuel Sandlin, labor,	8 25	
Samuel Farnsworth, posts,	4 40	
C. A. Edgarton, scrap iron,	65	
Leon C. Holden, labor,	1 65	
G. S. Wells, railing,	13 52	
	<hr/>	\$63 16
Estimated value railing on hand.		\$10 00

Bridges.

Chas. E. Young, labor,	\$7 35	
Michael Goinet, labor,	1 65	
G. C. West, labor,	3 15	
L. C. Holden, labor,	1 50	
G. M. Ballou, plank,	55 79	
Samuel Sandlin, labor,	2 33	
E. L. White, labor,	2 50	
E. L. White, plank,	31 32	
Harry P. Barnard, labor,	1 50	
	<hr/>	\$107 09
Estimated value of plank on hand,		\$25 00

Snow 1895-96.

Eugene E. Sleeper,	\$1 35	
Harry P. Barnard,	7 05	
John M. Adams,	2 00	
Henry M. Holden,	9 60	
W. F. Hewes,	4 00	
Hezzie Spaulding,	4 60	
Oliver Canty,	5 25	
E. S. Parker,	2 00	
Geo. A. Adams,	75	
Peter Canty,	6 00	
Samuel H. Longley,	20 40	
Dennis O'Neil,	7 95	
Geo. Mayhew,	2 63	
E. L. White,	2 80	
Samuel Sandlin,	1 82	
Chas. E. Young,	4 70	
Geo. L. Fairbanks,	12 75	
S. P. Holden,	50	
	————	\$96 15

Guide Boards.

G. M. Ballou, boards,	\$1 00	
E. L. White, posts,	1 00	
R. M. Priest, painting,	3 48	
Chas. E. Young, labor,	1 50	
	————	\$6 98

Guide Posts.

Guide posts with boards thereon have been maintained in the usual and necessary places in the town in compliance with the requirements of law.

STILLMAN P. HOLDEN,
Superintendent of Streets.

Treasurer's Report.**RECEIPTS.**

1895.

March 2. Cash on hand,	\$1756 73
March 2. S. B. Scott, collector,	\$267 08
March 2. G. W. Sanderson, clerk of court,	6 74
May 2. S. B. Scott,	106 25
May 15. Commonwealth of Massachusetts, paupers,	1 00
May 27. First National Bank of Ayer, loan,	1000 00
June 25. First National Bank of Ayer, loan,	1000 00
July 1. International Trust Co., Gardner trust,	9 50
July 1. International Trust Co., Longley trust,	9 50
July 1. International Trust Co., Henry trust,	9 50
July 1. International Trust Co., . Longley school fund,	118 75

July 1. International Trust Co.,	
Parker school fund,	\$96 40
July 1. First National Bank of	
Ayer, interest,	13 00
Aug. 15. Commonwealth of Mas-	
sachusetts, State paupers,	68 80
Aug. 20. Estate of Lucy Holden,	
Dan. Holden,	68 45
Aug. 27. S. B. Scott,	600 22
Sept. 4. S. B. Scott,	250 63
Sept. 27. S. B. Scott,	575 00
Oct. 1. S. B. Scott,	261 79
Oct. 8. S. B. Scott,	243 37
Oct. 8. G. W. Sanderson, clerk of	
court,	9 12
Oct. 18. S. B. Scott,	436 47
Oct. 21. S. B. Scott,	200 00
Oct. 26. S. B. Scott,	400 00
Oct. 30. S. B. Scott,	2449 13
Oct. 30. Louis Rouse, license,	6 00
Oct. 31. S. B. Scott,	1820 73
Oct. 31. S. B. Scott,	283 44
Oct. 31. Alvin Lawton, license,	1 00
Oct. 31. Commonwealth of Mas-	
sachusetts, State paupers,	15 00
Nov. 23. S. B. Scott,	128 00
Nov. 25. S. B. Scott,	75 95
Dec. 7. S. B. Scott,	100 00
Dec. 7. Commonwealth of Mas-	
sachusetts, corporation tax,	748 01
Dec. 7. Commonwealth of Mas-	
sachusetts, bank tax,	226 77

Dec. 7. Commonwealth of Massachusetts, State aid,	\$692 00
1896.	
Jan. 1. International Trust Co., Longley school fund,	112 94
Jan. 1. International Trust Co., Parker school fund,	96 13
Jan. 1. International Trust Co., Longley cemetery fund,	9 50
Jan. 1. International Trust Co., Gardner cemetery fund,	9 50
Jan. 1. International Trust Co., Henry cemetery fund,	9 50
Jan. 1. S. B. Scott,	205 34
Jan. 7. S. B. Scott,	112 40
Jan. 27. S. B. Scott,	85 00
Jan. 27. Commonwealth of Massachusetts, school fund,	369 20
Jan. 31. County Treasurer, dog fund,	131 67
First National Bank of Ayer, interest,	16 77
Feb. 15. S. B. Scott,	100 00
Feb. 26. S. B. Scott, balance of 1894,	40 42
Feb. 26. S. B. Scott,	110 41
Feb. 26. S. P. Holden, use of town hall,	24 00
Feb. 27. S. B. Scott,	235 13
Feb. 29. S. B. Scott,	100 25
March 4. G. M. Ballou,	18
	—————\$15,822 67

EXPENDITURES.

1895.

March 2. Paid outstanding order,s	\$230 56
Paid March orders, Nos. 1 to 34,	301 63
Paid April orders, Nos. 35 to 93,	1138 25
Paid May orders, Nos. 94 to 145,	1156 89
Paid June orders, Nos. 146 to 182,	677 57
Paid July orders, Nos. 183 to 219,	530 44
Paid Aug. orders, Nos. 220 to 251,	553 93
Paid Sept. orders, Nos. 252 to 282,	701 79
Paid Oct. orders, Nos. 283 to 320,	891 46
Paid Nov. orders, Nos. 321 to 363,	857 25
Paid Dec. orders, Nos. 344 to 394,	365 02

1896.

Paid Jan. orders, Nos. 395 to 447,	4392 91
Paid Feb. orders, Nos. 448 to 501,	1040 88
	<hr/> \$12,838 58

Cash on hand, \$2983 91

HENRY EDGARTON,

March 4, 1896.

Treasurer.

Auditors' Report.*To the Citizens of Shirley:*

We hereby certify that we have examined the accounts of the Selectmen, Town Treasurer and Overseers of the Poor, for the year ending March 1, 1896, and find them correct with proper vouchers for all money paid out.

Respectfully,

EDWIN L. WHITE,
JOHN W. THACHER,

Shirley, March 5, 1896.

Auditors.

List of Jurors for 1896.

The following list of Jurors has been prepared by the Selectmen for the acceptance of the Town at the Annual Town Meeting, to be held March 16, 1896.

Robertus F. Colburn,	William H. Crossman,
Almond M. Holden,	Augustus B. Cram,
Savillion W. Longley,	John E. Gardner,
John W. Farrar,	Charles A. Longley,
Louis J. Farnsworth,	Lewis L. Warren,
John H. Louge,	Charles E. Young,
John E. L. Hazen,	Albert Adams,
Harriman Longley,	Edwin H. Conant,
Charles H. Miner,	Melvin W. Longley,
Herbert E. Lawrence.	

Report of Library Trustees.

The Library Trustees submit the following report of receipts and expenditures, also of condition and use of Library during the past year and would respectfully ask for an appropriation of \$300 for the year ensuing.

Number of books in circulation March 1, 1896,	2031
Number of books of reference March 1, 1896,	271
Number of days library was open,	53
Number of persons taking books,	240
Number of books taken,	3706

Town appropriation,	\$300,00
Received from fines, catalogue, etc.,	14 91
	————— \$314 91

EXPENDED.

New England Magazine, '95 and '96,	\$6 00
Hosley, binding magazines,	12 25
Estes & Lauriet,	53 62
Printing catalogues,	12 50
W. E. Clarke,	49 53
Mr. Crossman, screens,	11 62
Paine's Furniture Co.,	65 00
F. R. R., freight,	1 23
Transporting bookcase,	1 50
Conant Bros.,	14 02
Boxing trees,	2 50
R. T. Colburn,	4 05
Conant Bros.,	8 71
R. H. White,	12 65
Estes & Lauriet,	17 17
J. Miller,	22 50
J. E. L. Hazen,	5 00
Express,	95
Cleaning,	1 72
Labor on lawn,	1 40
Harper's, Cosmopolitan and McClure's,	5 25
Books,	1 75
Looking-glass,	1 25
Lock and oil,	64
Mr. Sargent, repairing,	1 95
	————— \$314 76

W. H. WILBUR,
M. M. NICKLESS,
M. J. CONANT,
N. J. ROWELL,
M. J. HAZEN,
F. L. KEITH,

Trustees of Shirley Public Library.

By W. H. WILBUR, *Chairman.*

Abatement of the Year 1894 Taxes.

E. G. Adams, paid in Boston,	\$2 00
Charles Bulger, left town in April,	2 00
Albert Bulah, Jr., left town in April,	2 00
Felix Bulger, taxed twice,	2 00
Frank M. Clark, left town,	2 00
Wm. Deublin, not here,	2 00
H. S. Farnsworth, on horse,	1 18
T. Garron, left town,	2 00
Catherine Harriden, single woman,	5 91
E. G. Harmon, not owned,	1 89
W. H. Igo, left town,	2 00
Alfred Jewet, not found,	2 00
Anthony Page, over-tax on horse,	59
Fred Sleeper, age 18 years,	2 00
Charles Shattuck, taxed in N. H.,	2 00
Edward Tutro, not here,	2 00
Frank Wheeler, taxed twice,	2 00
Wm. Walsh, taxed in Clinton,	2 00
Wm. Willis, disabled soldier,	10 65
Warren F. Lund, over-taxed land,	1 18
Jackson Cook, over-taxed land,	5 91
	<hr/> \$55 31

I hereby certify that the above list and the reasons are correct.

S. B. SCOTT,
Collector of Taxes.

Shirley, Mass., February 10, 1896.

MIDDLESEX, ss., February 10, 1896.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this day.

JOHN E. L. HAZEN,
Justice of the Peace.

MELVIN W. LONGLEY,
THOMAS L. HAZEN,
B. S. BINNEY,
Assessors of Shirley.

Report of the Collector of Taxes.*For the Year Ending March 1, 1896.***TAX FOR 1894.**

Tax warrant,	\$8923 76	
After tax,	5 88	
Interest,	9 90	
	<hr/>	\$8939 54
Amount of payments,	\$8558 82	
Abatements,	55 31	
Commission,	111 61	
Discount,	213 80	
	<hr/>	\$8939 54

TAX FOR 1895.

Tax warrant,		\$9673 65
Amount paid treasurer,	\$8773 26	
Balance due town,	900 39	
	<hr/>	\$9673 65

Assessors' Report.

We the Assessors of Shirley, herewith submit our report:

Town appropriation,	\$8300 00	
State tax,	450 00	
County tax,	710 46	
Overlayings,	213 19	
	<hr/>	\$9673 65

Tax Rate, \$12.30 per \$1000.

Value of personal estate,	\$152,145 00	
Value of buildings,	328,850 00	
Value of land,	256,140 00	
	<hr/>	\$737,135 00

Exempts,	\$8065 00
Number of persons assessed on property,	372
Number of persons assessed on polls only,	167
Total number of polls,	353
Number of horses,	233
Number of cows,	339
Number of sheep,	12
Number of other cattle,	97
Number of swine,	35
Number of dwellings,	290
Number of acres of land,	9237 $\frac{7}{8}$
Number of fowls,	1255

MELVIN W. LONGLEY,
B. S. BINNEY,
THOMAS L. HAZEN,
Assessors of Shirley.

Engineers' Report.

The Board of Engineers herewith respectfully present their Annual Report:

The Company re-organized July 2, 1895, and we have to-day thirty-three members. We have been very lucky this year having had only two alarms, one at the railroad station and one at John Whitley's barn. The engine and apparatus is in good repair.

Respectfully submitted,

H. A. SAWTELL,
J. L. HUME,
Board of Engineers.

Town Clerk's Report of Registration.

MARRIAGES IN 1895.

Residence Shirley when not given.

- Jan. 5. Fred E. Sleeper,
Helen Provost.
- Jan. 7. Lewis A. Davis, Ayer,
Annie E. Grelis.
- Feb. 23. George W. Balch,
Estelle Q. Cox.
- Feb. 26. Willard Parmenter,
Cora Parmenter, Sterling.
- April 18. George Dobson,
Olive Wheeler.
- April 26. Henry F. Green,
Emma Whitaker.
- April 30. Louis Baker.
Clara Penisean.
- May 4. Fred Root,
Georgana Sidelow.
- May 6. Ermecean Thomas,
Mary Bulger.
- July 22. Charles E. Wyman, Fitchburg.
Etta L. Smith, Fitchburg.
- Aug. 2. Emile Smith,
Annie Lambert.
- Aug. 4. Fred M. Jacobs, Hudson.
Lizzie M. Sherer.
- Sept. 11. Harry B. Moorhouse,
Fanny Avies.
- Sept. 26. Lewis L. Warren,
Ida M. Banks.

- Oct. 2. James L. Holland, Somerville.
Etta A. Jubb,
Oct. 6. Frank J. Lawton,
Anna McColester.
Oct. 16. Frank H. Wheeler, Watertown.
Lizzie G. White.
Nov. 4. William Arseno,
Elizabeth Thomas.
Dec. 4. David B. Scott, Providence, R. I.
Alice G. Longley.
Dec. 4. Edward R. Thompson,
Helen E. Holden.
Dec. 8. John T. Perry,
Mary E. Cleaves, Hyde Park.
Dec. 14. Henry F. Derby, Leominster,
Florence A. Sargent.

BIRTHS.

Thirty-one Births have been registered, twelve males and nineteen females.

DEATHS IN 1895.

Birthplace Shirley when not given.

		Yrs.	Mo.	Dys.
Jan. 19.	John Gordon, Canada,	48		
Jan. 25.	Myra Devarney, Canada,	3		
Feb. 5.	Margaret A. Thacher, Concord, N. H.,	66	11	14
Feb. 19.	Calvin L. Farnsworth,	74	4	
Feb. 22.	Charles Wood, Dracut,	77	5	
Feb. 25.	Phebe A. Hartwell, Lancaster, N. Y.,	80		
Mar. 17.	Catherine Haggerty, Ireland,	36		
Mar. 21.	Eliza L. Allen,			1

	Yrs.	Mo.	Dys.
Mar. 28. Mary A. Longley, Harvard,	83	5	13
April 14. Endora J. Willis, Bath, Me.,	44	7	11
April 28. John Fletcher, England,	64	2	6
May 6. Mary L. Hewes,	74	10	18
June 4. Joseph Genoit, 5 minutes.			
June 8. Henry Genoit,			4
July 8. Clara M. Adams, N. Y.,	41	4	4
Aug. 13. Albert Schaunier, Canada,	80		
Aug. 16. Catherine Holden,	88	9	5
Sept. 5. Sarah E. Longley, Lowell, Vt.,	48	27	
Sept. 21. Jerh. Marshall, N. B.,	16		
Sept. 27. Mary B. Baker,			13
Oct. Mary E. Cram,	28	6	9
Oct. 18. Abigail Prouty, Spencer,	77	2	
Oct. 22. Wm. B. Hartwell, Lunenburg,	83		
Nov. 27. Elizabeth F. Chadwick, Scotland,	58	3	17

Sixty-six dogs have been registered from May 1, 1895 to May 1, 1896. Sixty male and six female. Amount of fees received \$150.

JONAS LONGLEY,
Town Clerk.

TOWN WARRANT.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

MIDDLESEX SS.

To Jonas Longly, Clerk of the Town of Shirley, in said County, Greeting:

In the name of the Commonwealth, aforesaid, you are hereby required by posting an attested copy of this Warrant at the Postoffice in Shirley, and a like copy in the Postoffice in Shirley Village, eight days at least before the time herein appointed for the meeting, to notify and warn all the legal voters of said Town, to assemble in the Town Hall, on Monday the sixteenth day of March instant, at eleven o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon, to give in their votes on one ballot, for a Town Clerk, three Selectmen, three Overseers of the Poor, three Assessors, Treasurer, one School Committee for three years, two Trustees of the Public Library for three years, and one for one year, two Auditors, Collector of taxes, three Constables, and one Surveyor of Highways; also to vote Yes or No on the question; Shall license be granted for the sale of intoxicating liquors in this town. The Polls will be opened at twelve o'clock at noon, and may be closed at four o'clock P. M. of said day. Also, to act on the following Articles:

ART. 1. To choose a Moderator.

ART. 2. To choose all Officers not required by law to be chosen by ballot.

ART. 3. To hear the report of the Selectmen and of any Committee heretofore chosen and act thereon.

ART. 4. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the support of schools and the poor, highways and bridges, fire department, enforcement of law, interest on notes, library, cemeteries, Memorial Day, salaries of officers, transportation of library books, and all other necessary and incidental expenses of the Town for the ensuing year.

ART. 5. To see if the Town will vote to build a lock-up in Shirley Village and raise and appropriate any money therefor, or act thereon.

ART. 6. To see what action the Town will take in relation to the collecting of taxes.

ART. 7. To see if the Town will fix the salary of the Tax Collector or act thereon.

ART. 8. To see if the Town will authorize the Town Treasurer to borrow money in anticipation of taxes, or act thereon.

ART. 9. To see if the Town will accept or alter the list of Jurors, as prepared by the Selectmen.

ART. 10. To see if the Town will vote to choose a Park Commissioner, or act thereon.

ART. 11. To see if the Town will vote to provide a public dump near Shirley Village, or act thereon.

ART. 12. To see what action the Town will take to provide additional accommodation for the scholars in the crowded school-rooms in the Village.

ART. 13. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate any money for the purpose of maintaining street lights in the Town, or take any action thereon.

ART. 14. To see if the Town will designate what portion of the fire engine house at Shirley Village shall be devoted to the exclusive use of the enginemen and fire apparatus, and whether the Town will vote to appropriate the balance of the building to other purposes.

ART. 15. To see if the Town will vote to grant lots in the Village cemetery to all persons who now have lots that the Town has not voted to grant them, or act thereon.

ART. 16. To see if the Town will vote to fix the salary of the Highway Surveyor, or act thereon.

ART. 17. To see if the Town will vote to G. W. Sanderson lot No. 176 in Shirley Village cemetery.

Hereof, fail not and make return of this Warrant with your doings thereon, to one of the Selectmen, at or before said meeting.

Given under our hand at Shirley this fourth day of March, A. D., 1896.

G. M. BALLOU,
STILLMAN P. HOLDEN,
HENRY M. HOLDEN,
Selectmen of Shirley.



ANNUAL REPORT
—OF THE—
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
—AND—
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
—OF THE—
TOWN OF SHIRLEY
—FOR THE—
YEARS 1895-96.

AYER, MASS. :
WILLIAM M. SARGENT, PRINTER.
1896.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

HENRY EDGARTON,
Chairman, 1898.

MRS. N. J. ROWELL,
Secretary, 1897.

FRANK L. KEITH,
1896.

CHARLES L. CLAY,
Superintendent of Schools,
Residence, Harvard.

WILLIAM M. PARK,
Truant Officer.

SCHOOLS.

Teachers.

Alice Bird Hart,	\$161 50
Emily F. Kenney,	84 00
Laura A. White.	297 00
Clara L. Coffin,	383 00
Martha R. McLellan,	284 00
Mary Bayfield,	330 00
Marion P. Crawford,	130 00
Minnie Holden,	210 00
Mrs. W. J. Baker,	120 00
Mary M. Smith,	108 00
M. Rose McGowan,	114 00
Adella Boutwell,	40 00
Mrs. Gates Lockhart, music,	114 25
	<hr/> \$2375 75

Superintendent.

Mrs. S. M. Barker,	\$20 00
Chas. L. Clay,	156 25

Tuition of High School Scholars.

Town of Groton,	\$20 00
Town of Ayer,	126 00
	<hr/> \$2698 00

Supplies.

Wright & Potter,	\$2 00
Geo. F. King & Merrill,	19 86
Geo. S. Perry,	22 83
Ginn & Co.,	95 48
A. A. Warner,	1 94
Conant Bros. & Co.,	2 50
Silver, Burdett & Co.,	27 02
Leach, Shewell & Stanton,	6 30
Boston School Supply Co.,	3 00
Mrs. N. J. Rowell,	12 60
Samson Cordage Co.,	1 75
D. C. Heath Co.,	5 50
American Book Co.,	22 95
J. L. Hammett,	38 95
Chas. L. Clay,	9 37
Wm. M. Sargent,	9 11
Houghton & Mifflin,	1 69
National Express Co.	1 04
G. M. Ballou,	1 41
	<hr/> \$285 30

Janitors.

Matthew H. Burns,	\$22 50
Edw. A. Farnsworth,	6 00
Alice B. Hart,	6 50
Leon C. Holden,	15 75
Morton E. Lawrence,	16 75
W. J. Baker,	18 00
Forest Stanton,	6 00
William Danborn,	25 30
	<hr/> \$116 80

Fuel.

Conant Bros. & Co.,	\$57 05	
Samuel Farnsworth,	45 00	
O. M. Bennett,	43 50	
E. L. White,	5 25	
	<hr/>	\$150 80

Transportation.

E. D. Longley,	\$30 00	
W. H. Cram, teacher,	18 50	
	<hr/>	\$48 50

Repairs.

A. A. Warner,	\$12 63	
H. E. Lawrence,	75	
W. H. Crossman,	9 10	
C. H. Miner,	1 50	
H. A. Stone,	1 25	
A. L. Noe,	33 25	
G. M. Ballou,	43 11	
J. E. Parmenter,	1 00	
A. B. Cram,	75	
R. M. Priest,	60 53	
S. P. Holden,	2 00	
W. H. Brown,	4 80	
	<hr/>	\$170 67

Incidentals.

Mary A. Hodgman, cleaning,	\$3 25
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Truants.

Hiram Clark,	\$2 00	
William M. Park,	14 00	
	<hr/>	\$16 00

Recapitulation.

Teachers,	\$2375 75
Janitors,	116 80
Repairs,	170 67
Supplies,	285 30
Fuel,	150 80
Transportation,	48 50
Incidentals,	19 25
Superindents,	176 25
Tuition High Schools,	146 00
To February 27,	<hr/> \$3489 32

In School Committee, February 10, 1896:

Voted—That the Report of the Superintendent of Schools be accepted and adopted as the Report of the School Committee, and be published as such.

HENRY EDGARTON,
MRS. N. J. ROWELL,
FRANK L. KEITH,
School Committee of Shirley.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

To the School Committee:—

I have the honor to submit to you my first report, which pertains to the schools from the time I took charge of them July 1st, 1895 to February 1st, of the present year.

The laws of Massachusetts require that "The school committee shall annually make a detailed report of the condition of the several public schools, which report shall contain such statements and suggestions in relation to the schools as the committee deem necessary or proper to promote the interests thereof" (G. S. 40, sec. 6.)

It has become the very proper custom in towns employing a superintendent to embody in this report such information and recommendations as he may wish to make. This affords an occasion to the superintendent to present to the attention of all the citizens, something of what is going on in the educational world, something of the changing methods, something of the thought of the best scholars, etc., the whole comprising what is known as "the new education." We are living in the busiest and most progressive period of the world's existence. Activity pervades every department of life. Never before have men been so eager to discover the secrets of science and apply her principles to the economies of art and industry. There are just as earnest students of mind as of matter, and the results of these investigations come to us, cumbered and busied with our personal

concerns, in crystals of thought, most frequently expressed in reports.

On entering upon the duties of the district the secretary informed me that Bolton had 7 schools, Boylston 5, Harvard 9 and Shirley 7; that the superintendent was to give his time to the several towns in proportion to the number of their schools. This is being done.

Coming so recently into the district, an entire stranger to all the school officers, teachers and pupils, my short experience leaves me, not with results to enumerate but rather a statement to make of some conditions necessary to a good school, and some recommendations looking toward better work in the future.

With a member of the committee your superintendent visited all the schools during the last week of the spring term. Every change in the supervision or management of a school, whether from necessity or otherwise is disturbing.

To make the acquaintance of teachers and schools, to learn the desires of the committee, to take up the work where it was laid down, and to carry it along with the least possible break or friction has been my object; consequently no particularly new features have been introduced; no changes in the course of subjects have been made excepting the introduction of Frye's Geography; teachers' meetings have been held at the usual time and place; by suggestion and example, we have tried to help and if possible to perfect the existing order of work.

ATTENDANCE.

One of the main causes of a poor school and that which detracts from the highest efficiency of a good one, is the irregular attendance of a few children. Poor attendance may be a result over which the teacher, parent or pupil has no control; but this seldom happens. The best schools—those where the best results are obtained, are found where parents, pupils and teacher are united for the interests, and are working in harmony for the individual child. What is best for the boy or girl, a part, is best for the school, the whole. A large per cent of absences are without sufficient reason; all tardiness is essentially needless; both show a lack of interest or care or persistence on the part of the child or parent and almost without exception it is on the part of the latter, for the child is supposed to act in obedience to the parent.

With a very few families school is a matter of compulsion; their children are sent because the law requires this. There is usually a family or two in every district with whom school is a matter of convenience or secondary importance. When there is nothing else to do they let their children go to school; such pupils are the irregular ones. They are oftenest tardy and the invariable excuse is, "Had to go on an errand," or "Didn't get my chores done sooner."

Blessed are those families who realize that when school is in session it is the first and chief business of their children to be present. Parents would better hire some one, "to mind the baby," "to saw wood," "to

cut ice," "to get the harness mended," etc., than keep the children out to do such work.

"Eternal vigilance" is the only remedy. As attendance is the corner-stone of the best school, its importance cannot be too deeply impressed upon every patron of education. These three things should be emphasized. First, your duty to the children; you owe it to them to train and to help their teachers to train them in the habit of promptness, which is largely the main factor of material success. We learn to do things by doing them; we learn to be prompt by being prompt. No employer will have about him for any length of time, a boy or man who is habitually late to his work, uncertain and irresponsible. "You cannot depend upon him," is the poorest kind of recommendation. It doesn't make bread and butter come easy. The second is your duty to the public. The schools are for the public good. Ever absence not only retards your child but interferes with the progress of the whole school; a drag is added, a weight is imposed, interest is diminished, discouragement is brought upon all.

No one has any right to thus rob his neighbors.

The great law of the public good, places the benefit of the whole before the convenience of the individual. The third is an economical reason, so plain that every tax-payer can see its bearings.

Referring to your report for 1894-5, I see that the per cent of attendance is 88.7 which takes into account only actual absences in whole half-days.

This means that out of every hundred cents paid for your schools that year you received in return only 88.7

cents; an absolute loss of 11.3 cents on every dollar expended. No business man would call this good management or a wise use of money. The probable loss from sickness,—the only good reason for absence,—is not over two per cent. When school keeps let us sacrifice something if need be to keep the children there. Some seem to be ignorant of the following law.

Chapter 498, Section 1. Every person having under his control a child between the ages of eight and fourteen years . . . shall annually cause such child to attend some public day school in the city or town in which he resides, and such attendance shall continue for at least thirty weeks of the school year, if the schools are kept open for that length of time, with an allowance of two weeks' time for absences not excused by the Superintendent of Schools or the School Committee. *Such period of attendance shall begin within the first month of the fall term of school, and for each five days' absence of any such child thereafter, in excess of the above allowance, before the completion of the required annual attendance of thirty weeks,* the person having such child under his control shall upon the complaint of the School Committee or any truant officers, forfeit to the use of the public schools of such city or town a sum not exceeding twenty dollars.

(Note.—The italics indicate the recent change in the law.)

TEACHERS.

It is a great privilege for a child to be born and raised in Massachusetts. No State in the Union pro-

vides more liberally for the education of its youth. We have free schools, free text-books, and almost free supervision.

The raising of the standard of the teaching force has been entered upon by the adoption last year of a law requiring all applicants to our Normal schools to be graduates of high schools. This means the elevation of teaching to the level of the "three learned professions." It also means for teachers in our country towns better preparation for their important work, higher wages, longer term of service, and, consequently, better schools. Everything, however, does not depend upon the teacher, but with pupils in regular attendance, with a good equipment of apparatus and supplies. A good teacher is a wonderful help in making a good school.

The frequent changing of teachers has, in my judgment, been the greatest hinderance to the progress of the schools; this even conduces to irregular attendance. Throughout the district the children are farther advanced and better scholars where the teachers have been with them two or more years. If any of us wanted a machine, delicate in its mechanism, complicated in its parts, designed for peculiar work and long service, we should not dare to place our order in the hands of eight or twelve different workmen, to be built more or less according to the ideas and caprices of each, and perhaps some of them mere apprentices.

This is what we do with the children. Our country schools have become too much the training schools for the large villages and cities, where terms are longer and

salaries larger. Herein lies an incontrovertible argument for consolidation, but until we reach this desired condition it is not wisdom or economy to let a good teacher go, even from a small school. I like the philosophy of the man who said: "The best is none too good for me," especially when applied to teachers.

The good teacher might be retained longer and the poor one made better, in many of our districts, if parents took more pains to make her acquaintance and showed themselves more interested in her and her work.

"The community can do much for the schools by giving the teacher a royal welcome," by making her at home in the place. This is peculiarly true of a woman teacher. She is worth twice as much to the school if she is made happy in her home and social life.

The teacher comes among you a stranger, to be compared with all her predecessors, the target for criticism and the theme of neighborhood talk.

Do not wait for her to introduce herself; call upon her early; invite her to your homes; visit the school often; see that she is carried to the village entertainments; take her to church and the evening meetings if she desires to go; do not oblige her to walk to and from the teachers' meetings; give her not only a warm corner at your firesides, but let her feel the warm generous sympathy of your hearts; "make her comfortable and happy," and it will take a greater inducement than "an extra dollar" get her away. She will have a great love for her children and they for her, and you will have "the best school we have ever had in this district."

CHARACTER-BUILDING.

Isn't there danger lest we lose sight of the real end and aim of education? Plato said more than two thousand years ago: "The purpose of education is to give the body and soul all the beauty and all the perfection of which they are capable." Two things comprising the whole man are to be developed, the body and the soul. This is character building, which should be the main purpose of all school work; not so much language, not so many pages of arithmetic, not so many inches of history, not the simple facts of nature, physiology or music, but power to see, hear, feel, appreciate and enjoy our environments, and to better them if need be.

While we scan our courses of study, with their multiplicity of subjects, and you teachers of mixed schools try to see how you can arrange your program so as to give ten minutes to a class, so plan and teach that you will obey the following statute of the Commonwealth.

"It shall be the duty of all instructors of youth to exert their best endeavors to impress on the minds of children and youth committed to their care and instruction the principles of piety and justice, and a sacred regard to truth, love of their country, humanity and universal benevolence, sobriety, industry and frugality, chastity, moderation and temperance, and those other virtues which are the ornament of human society and the basis upon which a republican constitution is founded; and it shall be the duty of such instructors to endeavor to lead their pupils, as their ages and capacities will admit, into a clear understanding of the tend-

ency of the above mentioned virtues, to preserve and perfect a republican constitution and secure the blessings of liberty as well as to promote their future happiness, and also to point out to them the evil tendency of the opposite vices." (*Pub. Sts., Chap. 44, Sec. 15.*)

Then, when the public school is done with the child, though he may not be able to tell the population of Italy, or the height of Chimborazo, yet he will be "The American citizen developing in a person of broad intelligence, of right inclination and kindly human sympathies, with power in incepting and controlling action."

The formation of a taste for and the habit of reading good books, has very much to do with the building of character. "As a man thinketh so is he," If a child reads good books there will be incited in him good thoughts.

STATEMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

One of the disagreeable duties devolving upon the Superintendent is the statement of unpleasant facts, as he conceives them, and the suggesting of remedies that require considerable expenditures of money. He at once antagonizes some of those tax-payers who have no direct personal interest in the schools, and some who have not yet caught the spirit of this progressive age.

The most of our schools compare favorably with similar schools of adjoining towns; we have had, on the whole, earnest, faithful teachers welcoming suggestions, and alert to catch new ideas which would help the children.

The exterior of our school buildings are quite respectable and the buildings themselves are substantial; the accommodations, however, in some of the rooms and the furnishings of all of them are the poorest of any within my personal knowledge.

The primaries at the village are already crowded, and I deem it an imposition upon children and teachers to be subjected to such conditions. The increasing business of the village will naturally bring more people, having some children to school. To get along because we have got along can not be used as an argument. The comfort and health of the pupils demand our attention and call for measures of relief.

If the schools are to be continued, where and as they are, very much should be done. With the exception of desks and chairs, the East building is in creditable shape. The North house needs a new floor new boards, re-arranging of seats, foundations pointed, etc. The Center building is the best in town, but hard to heat by one stove. The foundations are broken, which make the floor very cold.

At the village the Grammar room needs a new floor, and some new boards; the lower room should have suitable desks and the whole building should be heated in a better and more economical way.

The Intermediate room is too small for the number of pupils; even with the double desks it gives no adequate space in front of them. It should have most of its boards renewed and the floor is not in the best condition. The double desks in all the rooms belong to an age gone by.

The schools at the North, East and Center, for causes heretofore mentioned, and for reasons existing in each individual locality, are not in the condition they should be; they cannot easily outgrow their character and surroundings. They need to be enthused with a sense of the value of an education and to feel the spirit of an ambition for learning. This can be done in part, at least, by uniting, enlarging, and hence by better grading. There is an inspiration in a good-sized school and a helpful rivalry.

Shirley ought to have a respectable high school of her own. We are at present paying to an adjoining town the tuition of eight pupils. Bolton, with an enrollment of 142 pupils, has a high school of 20 pupils. Lunenburg, with an enrollment of 238 pupils (1894-6) maintains a high school of 27 pupils. A high school at home would be an incentive to the children of the lower grades to do better work and remain longer in our schools.

In view of the needs and for the betterment of our schools, I recommend to the thoughtful consideration and action of the committee, voters and tax-payers:

1. (a) The erection of a new building of three rooms or the enlargement of the Intermediate building to one of four rooms. We should then, in either case, have one room in reserve, to be finished and furnished when required for, etc. The grading could then be something as follows:

First primary, beginners and grade I; Second primary, grades II and III; Intermediate, grades IV and V; these are three schools in the new building; Grammar

school of VI, VII and VIII and High school of IX to XII grades; these two departments are in the present grammar building.

Then establish at the center a school of the five lower grades, and require all pupils above the IV grade to come to the Village.

If this plan does not seem advisable, I suggest, (*b*) the enlarging of the Intermediate building to two rooms and transporting the pupils from the North to the Center, with such repairing and refurnishing as are necessary.

2. The appropriation for books and supplies should be large enough to allow the purchase of a few desk-books, including a Bible, language exercises, number-cards, busy-work for the primaries, helps in physiology, map of Massachusetts, some relief-maps, etc., which are the teacher's tools and implements for work.

3. All pupils in the town should receive the same instruction and enjoy the same benefits of the music teacher.

CONCLUSION.

To the school committee, teachers, pupils and town's people as far as I have met them, my thanks are given for the kindly welcome extended to me, and for the interest shown in the work which belongs to us all, and which can be better carried on by laboring shoulder to shoulder and heart to heart.

Respectfully submitted,
CHAS. L. CLAY, *Supt.*

ROLL OF HONOR 1895-96.

The figures denote the number of terms neither absent or tardy:

GRAMMAR.

Guy Cook, 1	George Balcom, 1
Willis Conant, 1	Marion Ballou, 1
Etta Gately, 1	Fred Holden, 2
Morton Lawrence, 1	Mabel Miner, 3
Florence McLellan, 1	George Pomfret, 2
George Provost, 1	Eddie Wheeler, 1

NORTH.

Nellie F. Cronin, 2	Cora L. Sleeper, 1
Katie A. Cronin, 2	Roy O. Hatch, 2
Annie D. Cronin, 2	Earl F. Sleeper, 1
Alice C. Dearborn, 2	Harrison M. Hatch, 1

EAST.

Alice M. Scott, 1	Clara Dale, 1
Lillian Dale, 1	Royal Towle, 2
Harry Harvey, 1	Helen Mellish, 1

CENTER.

Myra Z. Hewes, 1	Edith Longley, 2
Edna R. Willis, 2	Herman E. Willis, 1

INTERMEDIATE.

Joseph Allen, 2	Gertrude Conant, 2
Arthur Boucher, 1	Sarah Conant, 1
Frank Gionet, 1	Lena Gionet, 1
Carrie Hume, 1	John McCool, 1
Evelyn Miner, 1	James Haggerty, 1

FIRST PRIMARY.

Louisa Devarney, 1	Israel Devarney, 1
Rodney Brown, 1	

SECOND PRIMARY.

Angelina Bruno, 1	Frank Gardner, 1
Eva O'Neil, 1	Evelyn Miner, 1
Clara Penaseau, 1	

LIST OF TEACHERS, 1895-6.

SCHOOLS.	TEACHERS.	WHEN APPOINTED.	WHERE EDUCATED.	SALARY.
Grammar,	Clara L. Coffin	April 1895	Bridgewater Normal	\$11.00 \$12.00
Intermediate,	Mary Bayfield	Dec. 1894	Bridgewater Normal	\$10.00
Second Primary,	Martha R. McLellan Adella M. Boutwell	Sept. 1894 Dec. 1895	Hyde Park High Bridgewater Normal	\$10.00 \$10.00
First Primary,	Lura A. White	Sept. 1891	Framingham Normal	\$9.00
Center,	Marion P. Crawford Mrs. W. J. Baker M. Rose McGowan	Sept. 1894 Sept. 1895 Dec. 1895	Bridgewater Normal Engl. Col. of Preceptors Worcester Normal	\$10.00 \$10.00 \$9.50
North,	Minnie A. Holden	April 1895	Cushing Academy	\$9.50
East,	Alice B. Hart Mary M. Smith Charlotte L. Conant	April 1894 Sept. 1895 Dec. 1895	Framingham Normal Plymouth Normal, N. H. Framingham Normal	\$9.50 \$9.50 \$9.50

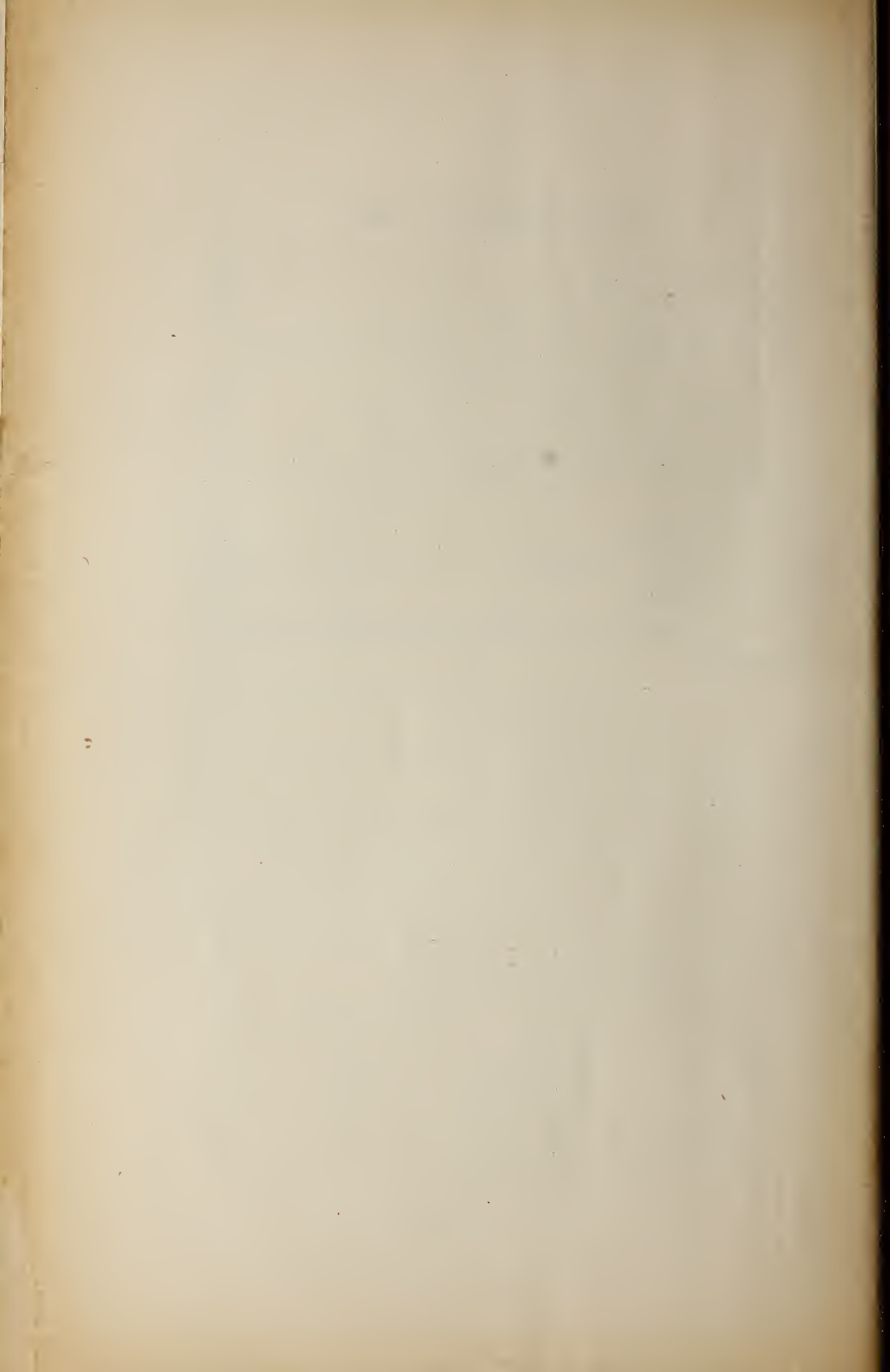
SCHOOL STATISTICS 1895 TO MARCH 6, 1896.

SCHOOLS.	Grades.	Weeks of School.	Pupils enrolled.	Average Membership.	Average Attendance.	Per cent of Attendance	Pupils under 5.	Pupils between 5 and 15.	Pupils between 8 and 14.	Pupils over 15.	Half-days of Absence.	Tardinesses.	Tardinesses per pupil based on Aver. Attend.	Dismissals.	Visits by Committee.	Visits by Superintendent.	Visits by others.
Grammar,	5-8	39	34	34.47	32.58	94.5	0	31	31	3	885	46	1.4	20	18	16	60
Intermediate,	3-4	39	42	35.54	37.10	95.	0	41	41	1	1789	60	1.61	94	10	13	24
Second primary	II	39	40	37.54	34.37	91.	0	40	23	0	1071	77	2.23	31	18	20	36
First primary,	I	39	46	34.41	30.42	88.4	0	46	3	0	1443	101	3.32	10	16	21	48
Center,	1-6	37	25	19.5	18.1	92.8	0	23	15	2	1084	78	4.32	33	9	20	26
North,	1-8	37	27	19.33	18.15	90.76	0	24	19	3	463	32	1.76	27	6	22	33
East,	1-6	37	22	17.74	16.8	94.7	0	22	15	0	811	41	2.44	79	4	22	73
Totals,	1-8	267	236	198.53	187.52	94.45	0	227	147	9	7546	435	2.32	294	81	134	300
Totals 1894-5,		238	235	169.7	150.5	88.7	0	226	154	9	6882	309	2.	438	77	185	266

A Few Statistics For 1895.

Population of town,	1399
Number of legal voters,	315
Assessed valuation May 1895, (nearly)	\$725,500 00
Number of children between five and fifteen years of age, May 1895,	230
Number of pupils enrolled,	236
Number of pupils attending out of town,	8
Number of schools March 1896,	7
Special teacher,	1
Total tardinesses,	435
Total half-days of absence,	7546
Total dismissals,	294

Total absences are equal to 37 weeks school for
20.4 pupils.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Selectmen of Shirley

TOGETHER WITH A

Report of the Treasurer, Assessors, Overseers of Poor,
Department, Trustees of the Public Library,
Auditors, Items from the Town Clerk's
Book, and Town Warrant,

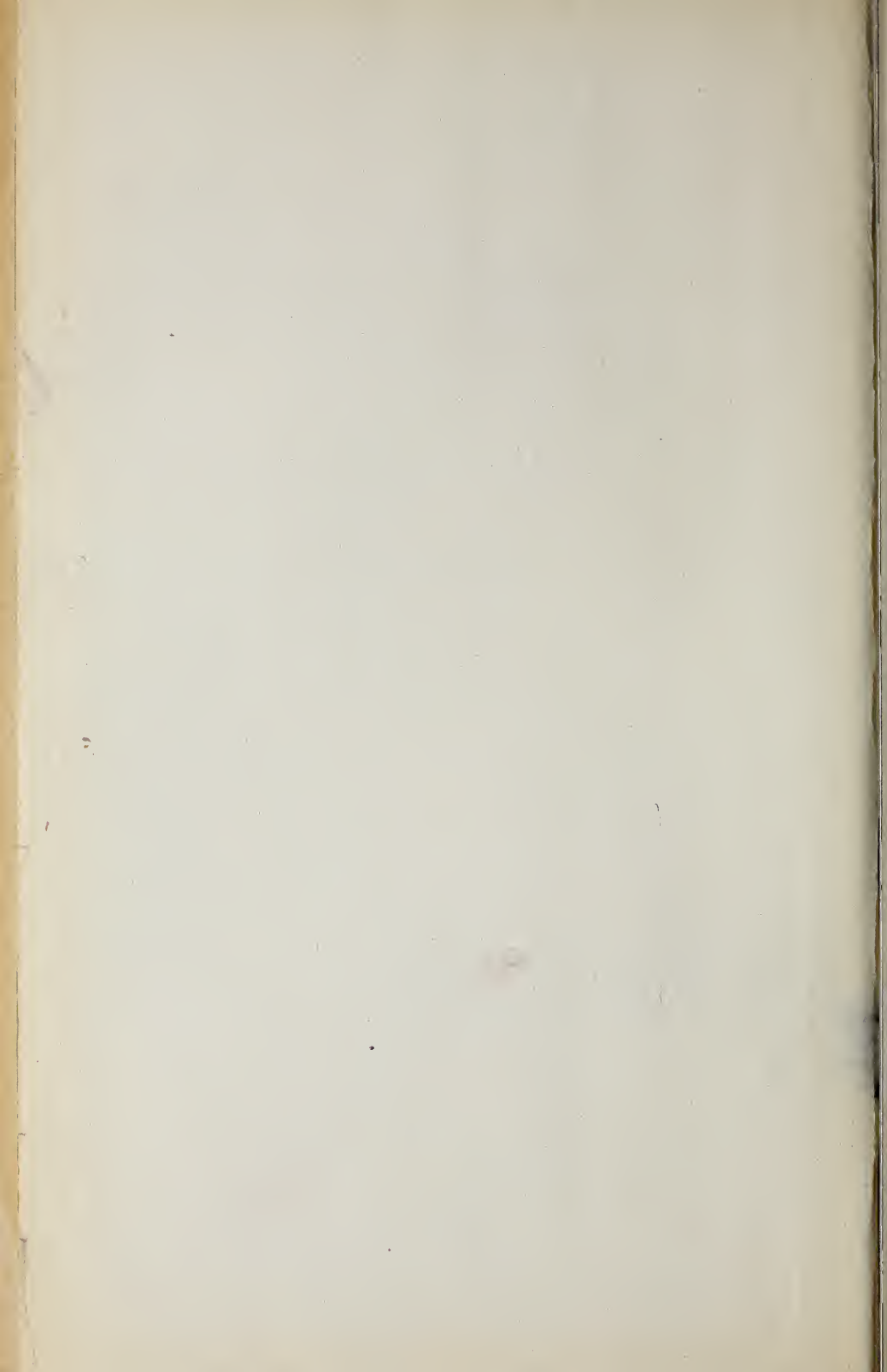
ALSO, THE

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1897.

ARTHUR S. BROWN
TOWN CLERK
TURNER BOOK AND JOB PRINTER.
1897.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES
OF THE
TOWN OF SHIRLEY,
WITH OTHER
STATISTICAL MATTER,
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1897.

AYER, MASS.
HUNTLEY S. TURNER, BOOK AND JOB PRINTER.

TOWN OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 1896-97.

Town Clerk,
Jonas Longley.

Selectmen,
Gilbert M. Ballou, D. Chester Parsons,
Henry M. Holden.

Treasurer,
Henry Edgerton.

Assessors,
Thomas L. Hazen, D. Chester Parsons,
Melvin W. Longley.

School Committee,
Jacob P. Hazen, Henry Edgerton,
N. J. Rowell.

Auditors,
John G. Conant Herman S. Hazen.

Trustees of Public Library,
William H. Wilbur, M. M. Nickless,
M. J. Conant, N. J. Rowell,
M. J. Hazen, Alfred N. Blackford.

Tax Collector,
S. B. Scott.

Highway Surveyor,
John M. Adams.

ANNUAL REPORTS.

REPORT OF THE SELECTMEN.

SHIRLEY, MASS., March 1, 1897.

To the Voters of the Town of Shirley:

GENTLEMEN: The Selectmen hereby submit the following report of their work for the year ending March 1, 1897:

Summary of Expenditures.

Poor	\$2568 47
Schools	4373 83
Highways	1289 38
Bridges and railings	116 97
Snow	97 26
Memorial Day	25 00
Interest	490 85
Military aid	8 00
State aid	518 00
Soldiers' aid	74 60
Cemetery trust	60 90
Town cemetery	22 00
Library	150 08
Transportation books	12 50
Fire Department	283 15
Brush fires	311 24
Salaries	524 00
Incidentals	777 58
Mitchellville bridge	336 74
Lock-up	429 85
Street lights	75 00
New school-house	3912 61
Cattle inspection	74 53
Insurance	204 10
	————— \$16,737 64

Temporary loans	\$5000 00	
State Tax	525 00	
County Tax	753 07	
	<hr/>	\$6,278 07
		<hr/>
Total amount of orders drawn		\$23,015 71

Estimates for Year 1897-98.

Schools	\$2300 00	
School supplies	200 00	
Transportation	50 00	
Tuition	150 00	
Repairs	200 00	
Superintendent	200 00	
	<hr/>	\$3100 00
Highways	\$1000 00	
Bridges	50 00	
Railings	50 00	
	<hr/>	\$1100 00
Poor	\$2200 00	
Fire Department	250 00	
Interest	650 00	
Library	300 00	
Cemeteries	25 00	
Memorial Day	25 00	
Street lights	250 00	
Enforcement of law	100 00	
Salaries	500 00	
Incidentals	600 00	
	<hr/>	\$9100 00

FINANCIAL CONDITION.

Indebtedness.

Parker School Fund	\$2657 57	
Israel Longley School Fund	1000 00	
North Middlesex Savings Bank	1400 00	
Universalist Society note	1100 00	
George S. Wells note	200 00	
First National Bank of Ayer	2000 00	
Interest	105 36	
Outstanding orders	133 62	
	<hr/>	\$8596 55

Assets.

Cash Balance	\$1812 36	
Due from Collector for 1896	1298 05	
Due from State for State and military aid	568 00	
Due from State for aid State paupers	536 60	
Due from State for fees cattle inspection	37 30	
Due from State, corporation and bank tax	537 22	
Due from Mr. Foster, aid to Mrs. Foster	111 95	
Due from Town of Natick	75 00	
Due from Town of Amesbury	26 86	
Due from Town of Lancaster	122 30	
Due from Town of Clinton	4 60	
Due from City of Fitchburg	21 00	
Due from State, share for Superintendent of Schools	238 30	
Interest, Trust Funds	80 20	
	<hr/>	\$5469 74
Balance against the town	\$3126 81	
Add loan for new school house	5000 00	
	<hr/>	\$8156 81

4142.24
3126.81

\$1015.43

1596
4142.24
200
3942.24

TRUST FUNDS.

Deposited with the International Trust Co.

Israel Longley School Fund	\$6000 00
Israel Longley Cemetery Fund	500 00
Jerome Gardner Cemetery Fund	500 00
Parker School Fund	5040 57
John Henry Cemetery Fund	500 00
	————— \$12,540 57

In Hands of Town Treasurer.

George Rice Cemetery Fund	\$100 00
Nathaniel Day Cemetery Fund	200 00
George Chandler Cemetery Fund	100 00
	————— \$400 00

GILBERT M. BALLOU,
D. CHESTER PARSONS,
HENRY M. HOLDEN,

SELECTMEN OF SHIRLEY.

REMARKS.

The report of the Committee on the New School-house contains the following: "About seventy-five dollars extra for setting the building back ten feet from Church street, by order of the Board of Selectmen."

The Selectmen desire to correct this statement; the Committee were not directed to set the building back ten feet from the street, but were warned not to set the edifice within the limits of the street, which appearances indicated it was the Committee's intention to do.

The Committee then informed the Selectmen it was their intention to locate school-house where it now is, on the line of Church street.

In accordance with the vote of the town, the Selectmen acting with the Selectmen of Ayer, made necessary repairs on the Mitchellville Bridge, at an expense to this town of \$336.74, and report the bridge to be in a perfectly safe condition for travel for many years to come.

The expenditures in the Poor department have been unusually heavy this year, owing to a large amount of sickness, principally among State poor, and poor having settlements elsewhere; these amounts have in many instances been paid back to the town, and in the remaining cases the town will be reimbursed for the payments made.

Three of the town poor are boarded at Harvard Almshouse at the expense of this town. It perhaps would be saving to the town should these poor be boarded among our own townspeople, or an almshouse established.

As will be noticed, bills amounting to \$800.82 remaining unpaid March 1, 1896, and for which no appropriations were made, were paid by the Selectmen. These with the expenditures voted by the town and not included in tax levy, have increased our town debt.

POOR.

Appropriation	\$2200 00	
Received from State	184 45	
Received from towns	206 17	
Received from individuals	23 50	
	<hr/>	\$2614 12
Due from State	\$531 60	
Due from towns	127 46	
Due from individuals	111 85	
	<hr/>	770 91
		<hr/>
		\$3384 03
Cost of town poor	\$1770 85	
Cost of State poor	460 29	
Cost of poor, settlement elsewhere	337 73	
	<hr/>	\$2568 87

Aid to Luther E. Blood.

Mrs. T. Newman	\$85 75	
J. W. Farrar	1 10	
	<hr/>	\$86 85

Aid to Mary J. Washington.

Worcester Lunatic Hospital	\$87 07	
Commonwealth of Massachusetts	96 00	
G. M. Ballou	29	
	<hr/>	183 36

Aid to Michael J. McGinness (family).

City of Fitchburg	\$51 00	
G. M. Ballou	80 00	
	<hr/>	131 00

Aid to Mrs. Robert Tagan.

City of Lowell	45 00	
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Aid to Charles E. Wheeler.

Worcester Lunatic Asylum		\$169 92
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Aid to Caroline Orcutt.

Mrs. E. F. Cowdrey	\$35 00	
A. F. Fernald, M. D., medical services	21 90	
J. F. Brown, funeral expenses	11 41	
	<hr/>	68 31

Aid to Mary Dailey.

P. H. Hooley, coal	\$3 25	
G. F. Kingsbury	2 01	
Town of Ayer	7 49	
	<hr/>	12 75

Aid to Armine Farcier.

Worcester Lunatic Hospital		89 14
Received from Anthony Farcier	\$20 00	
Due from A. Farcier, 1895-96	111 85	
	<hr/>	\$131 85

Aid to Charles J. Bruso.

A. F. Fernald, M. D., medical services	\$60 75	
W. N. Cowles, M. D., medical services	8 00	
J. E. Parsons, M. D. medical services	4 00	
Massachusetts General Hospital	32 00	
	<hr/>	104 75

Aid to Mrs. John Gordon.

A. F. Fernald, M. D., medical services	\$23 00	
H. O. Peasley	28 45	
Conant Bros. & Co.	1 25	
	<hr/>	52 70

Aid to Mary Bruso.

Conant Bros. & Co.		66 95
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Aid to Mrs. Bruno.

H. O. Peasley		70 00
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Aid to William Ford.

Mrs. Loren Adams		\$12 28
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Aid to Mrs. Eleazer Robbins.

Conant Bros. & Co	\$2 87	
D. C. Parsons	1 10	
A. F. Fernald	8 20	
S. B. Scott	75	
G. M. Ballou	1 50	
	<hr/>	14 42

Aid to Mrs. Andrews.

Town of Harvard	\$234 36	
H. B. Royal, M. D.	4 50	
	<hr/>	238 86

Aid to Daniel Holden.

Town of Harvard	\$164 33	
H. B. Royal, M. D.	2 50	
	<hr/>	166 83

Aid to Benjamin Farmer.

Town of Harvard	\$164 33	
H. B. Royal, M. D.	5 00	
	<hr/>	169 33

Miscellaneous.

A. F. Fernald, aid to tramps	\$5 19	
D. Bruce, aid to tramps	51 00	
M. J. Butler, aid to tramps	50	
G. M. Ballou, aid to tramps	50	
D. C. Parsons, aid to tramps	2 50	
S. B. Scott, aid to tramps	10 98	
Wm. M. Park, transportation of M. Le-		
cuyer to Tewksbury	4 76	
D. C. Parsons, time and expense, pau-		
per cases	12 97	
	<hr/>	87 40
		<hr/>
		\$1770 85

SETTLEMENTS ELSEWHERE.

Aid to Mrs. Clara Shattuck (Natick).

A. F. Fernald, M. D.	\$45 00	
R. E. N. Read	20 00	
D. C. Parsons	10 00	
	<hr/>	\$75 00
Due from Town of Natick	\$75 00	

Aid to Joseph Pippin (Oxford).

H. O. Peasley		8 00
Received from Town of Oxford	\$8 00	

Aid to Joseph Seymour (Lancaster).

H. O. Peasley		92 00
Received from Town of Lancaster	\$92 00	

Aid to Angelina Lewis (Leominster).

A. F. Fernald, M. D.		22 50
Received from Town of Leominster	\$22 50	

Aid to Delia Brosso and child (Clinton).

Conant Bros. & Co.	\$5 00	
H. Wilson	3 42	
A. F. Fernald	66 75	
Mary Pensaw	4 00	
Mrs. Bishop	5 00	
G. S. Wells	4 60	
	<hr/>	88 27

Amount received from Town of
Clinton

\$83 67

Amount due from Town of Clinton

4 60

\$88 27

Paul

Aid to Theophile Casey (Amesbury).

J. F. Brown	\$7 00
P. C. Parsons	6 00
H. Bruce	4 50
	<hr/>

RA
\$17 50

Due from Town of Amesbury \$17 50

Aid to Charlotte Casey (Amesbury).

H. E. Lawrence	
Due from Town of Amesbury	\$9 56

RA
9 56

Aid to E. B. Winterbottom (Fitchburg).

W. H. Brown	24 50	
Amount received from E. B. Winterbottom	\$3 50	
Amount due from E. B. Winterbottom	21 00	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$24 50	\$337 33

STATE POOR.

Aid to George Devarney.

A. F. Fernald, M. D.	\$99 00	
D. C. Parsons	5 00	
H. O. Peasley	4 50	
	<hr/>	\$108 50
Amount received from State	\$71 00	
Amount due from State	37 50	
	<hr/>	
	\$108 50	

Aid to Triflet Devarney.

A. F. Fernald, M. D.	\$41 25	
A. F. Fernald, M. D.	28 00	
D. C. Parsons	4 00	
	<hr/>	\$73 25
Amount received from State	\$41 25	
Amount due from State	32 00	
	<hr/>	\$73 25

Aid to Israel Shiner.

A. F. Fernald, M. D.	\$26 00	
D. C. Parsons	2 00	
	<hr/>	28 00
Amount due from State and allowed	\$28 00	

Aid to Margaret Lecuyer.

A. F. Fernald, M. D.		35 50
Amount received from State	\$35 50	

Aid to Ephraim Simard.

H. O. Peasley, 1895	\$46 80	
H. O. Peasley	73 17	
C. J. Pierce, M. D.	21 00	
	<hr/>	140 97
Amount due from State	\$140 97	

Aid to Harry B. Wilkins, 1895-96.

Harry B. Wilkins		22 05
Amount due from State and allowed	\$22 05	

Aid to John Brosso.

John Brosso		3 14
Amount due from State and allowed	\$3 14	

Aid to Joseph Cormier.

Conant Bros. & Co.		\$2 45.
Amount due from State	\$2 45	

Aid to Mrs. Peters.

Conant Bros. & Co.		1 25
Amount due from State	\$1 25	

Aid to George Sibley.

Conant Bros. & Co.		1 00
Amount due from State	\$1 25	

Aid to G. Gionet.

Conant Bros. & Co.	\$18 75	
G. S. Wells	3 55	
G. M. Ballou	3 13	
H. A. Esterbrook	12 25	
D. C. Parsons	6 50	
	<hr/>	44 18
Amount due from State	\$44 18	
		<hr/>
		\$460 29

BILLS UNPAID MARCH 1, 1896.

J. E. L. Hazen, oaths	\$ 50	
D. C. Parsons, oaths	3 00	
A. Adams, oaths	3 00	
G. J. Burns, legal services	30 00	
C. F. Worcester, legal services	5 00	
S. Sandlin, officer's fees	11 52	
M. H. Burns, janitor	8 00	
C. L. Clay, superintendent of schools	93 75	
Forest Stanton, janitor	8 40	
Minnie L. Holden, teacher	114 00	
Charlotte L. Conant	114 00	
Clara L. Coffin	72 00	
Laura A. White	54 00	
Adella M. Boutwell	60 00	
Mary Bayfield	60 00	
C. J. Pierce, M. D., reporting births, 1894	2 75	
C. J. Pierce, M. D., reporting births, 1895	4 50	
C. J. Pierce, M. D., fumigating	1 50	
H. A. Sawtell, officer's fees	7 94	
H. B. Royal, M. D.	2 50	
H. O. Peasley, poor	4 64	
J. E. Gardner, election officer	3 00	
Morton Lawrence, janitor	44 00	
G. M. Crawford, lockup fees	2 00	
H. O. Peasley, poor	64 80	
A. F. Fernald, M. D., poor	22 05	
W. M. Park, officer's fees	3 97	
		\$800 82

STATE AID.

Jeremiah Flynn	\$48 00
Mary Gately	40 00
Mary A. Howard	48 00
Julia O'Keefe	46 00

Ann M. Lawrence	24 00	
George F. Lewis	48 00	
Wm. R. McClellan	48 00	
Johanna O'Neill,	48 00	
Lydia Ramsdell	48 00	
Joel C. Neat	32 00	
Charles F. Smith	44 00	
Daniel Finnegan	36 00	
Henry T. Balcom	8 00	
	<hr/>	\$518 00
Amount repaid by State,	\$518 00	

MILITARY AID.

Daniel Finnegan	\$8 00
Amount repaid by State	\$4 00

SOLDIERS' AID.

Mrs. Gleason	\$74 60
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MEMORIAL DAY.

Appropriation	\$25 00
G. W. Davis, team	\$4 00
G. F. Lewis, lunch	2 93
A. L. Parker, team	3 00
H. C. Sherman, quartermaster	15 07
	<hr/>
	\$25 00

INSPECTOR OF CATTLE.

S. B. Scott	\$74 53
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HIGHWAYS.

N. Hersom and T. Balcom, gravel	\$19 00
J. M. Adams	514 45
J. H. Logue	63 50
S. Sandlin	84 25
J. E. O'Donnell	7 90
G. S. Wells	21 00
H. P. Barnard	10 73
F. Levaigue	9 90
F. Quenty	9 90
G. C. West	97 90
A. L. Parker	21 00
Chas. E. Young	5 90
G. L. Fairbanks	33 00
E. L. White	85 17
G. A. Adams	110 40
N. Bodah	91 20
C. H. Miner, repairs	20 00
G. E. Allen, supplies	8 25
F. Wheeler	1 60
H. O. Peasley, supplies	6 37
G. M. Ballou, supplies	2 85
N. Logue	14 40
L. G. Strand, repairs	5 30
E. A. Jenkins, gravel	4 32
O. F. Lawrence, repairs	6 00
N. A. Holden, repairs	1 00
G. F. Buxton	1 60
W. H. Cram, gravel	3 00
E. G. Hammond	10 40
A. Wheeler	75
B. Bodah	1 60
G. Holden	2 80
F. L. Keith, gravel supplies	8 00
H. O. Peasley, gravel supplies	4 64
D. C. Parsons, gravel supplies	1 30
	<hr/> \$1289 38

BRIDGES AND RAILINGS.

J. M. Adams, labor	\$54 60	
G. A. Adams, "	17 70	
S. Sandlin, "	1 60	
N. Bodah, "	2 40	
N. Logue, "	1 60	
G. M. Ballou, supplies	7 32	
T. Lambert, "	6 00	
E. A. Jenkins, "	2 94	
G. S. Wells,	9 76	
E. L. White	13 05	
	<hr/>	\$116 97

MITCHELLVILLE BRIDGE.

Town of Ayer, repairs	\$336 74
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SNOW, 1895.

J. M. Adams	\$3 00	
G. A. Adams	80	
	<hr/>	\$3 80

SNOW, 1897.

W. P. Conant	\$ 70	
W. A. Sawtell	3 84	
Edmond Bathrick	3 84	
Patrick Mitchell	3 44	
H. S. Mitchell	48	
Hugh Mitchell	4 72	
F. W. Bruce	1 60	
J. M. Adams	12 40	
George Holden	8 80	
H. G. Holden	3 84	

G. C. West	1 40	
G. A. Adams	1 28	
J. O'Donnell	2 88	
W. F. Hewes	17 60	
E. L. White	10 80	
J. Whiteley	5 00	
D. C. Parsons, (sundry persons)	4 60	
M. Devarney	4 16	
J. Cormic	2 08	
	<hr/>	\$93 46

INTEREST.

Appropriation		\$375 00
Geo. S. Wells	\$20 00	
North Middlesex Savings Bank	107 27	
First National Bank, Ayer	142 38	
Universalist Society	55 00	
International Trust Co.	159 95	
T. L. Hazen	6 25	
	<hr/>	\$490 85

LOCK-UP.

Appropriation		\$400 00
W. H. Brown, labor	\$19 81	
Berlin Bridge Co., cells, etc.	221 37	
G. M. Ballou, materials, etc.	164 87	
H. M. Francis	5 00	
G. M. Ballou, wood, etc.	3 55	
Conant Bros. & Co, comforters	3 15	
W. H. Brown, stove, etc.	8 40	
R. M. Priest, painting	3 70	
	<hr/>	\$429 85

TOWN INCIDENTALS.

Appropriation		\$500 00
J. E. L. Hazen, oaths, 1895	\$	50
D. C. Parsons, oaths, 1895		3 00
J. E. Gardner, election officer, 1895		3 00
Albert Adams, oaths, 1895		3 00
G. J. Burns, legal services, 1895		30 00
C. F. Worcester, legal services, 1895		5 00
G. M. Crawford, lockup fees, 1895		2 00
S. Sandlin, officer's fee, 1895		11 52
C. J. Pierce, M. D., reporting births, 1894 and 1895		8 75
H. A. Sawtell, officer's fee, 1895		7 94
Wm. M. Park, officer's fee, 1895		3 97
J. E. L. Hazen, election officer		3 00
L. L. Warren, election officer		6 00
C. A. Warren, election officer		1 00
W. H. Wilbur, typewriting		50
W. H. Cram, police services		6 30
J. F. Brown, sexton services		28 00
J. F. Brown, reporting deaths		1 50
J. P. Hazen, election officer		6 00
Wm. M. Sargent		55 25
J. H. Logue, election officer		3 00
L. C. Holden, election officer		3 00
J. P. Hazen, land for "dump"		15 00
S. B. Scott, officer's fee		12 51
H. S. Turner		39 25
J. W. Gilday, typewriting		1 64
C. H. Miner, election officer		6 00
A. B. Cram, cleaning Whiteley Park		15 00
M. R. Warren, blanks, letter file, etc.		8 70
T. C. Hurd, by-law clerk's fee and copies		8 75
D. C. Parsons, postage, express, etc.		3 24

Lovell Arms Co.	\$12 00
G. Farnsworth, election officer	3 00
N. Logue, services as watchman	7 50
W. H. Brown, pump center	10 15
R. W. Savage, watering trough	3 00
Knight & Thomas, fire extinguishers	162 00
C. B. Stevens, recording deeds, etc.	20 00
D. C. Parsons, time and expense to Worcester	3 86
D. C. Parsons, time, car fare and ex- pense to Boston, state roads, by- laws, etc.	10 84
L. J. Papineau, watchman	1 35
S. Hobbs & Co., blanks	4 00
S. Sandlin, police duty	4 60
W. H. Brown, supplies	1 25
J. H. Turner, town by-laws	14 00
A. B. Cram, police services	2 00
W. M. Park, officer's fee	18 29
H. E. Lawrence, watering trough	3 00
H. E. Lawrence, police services	10 60
Wm. H. Crossman, police work	2 00
Thomas J. Gately, police work	2 00
D. C. Parsons, services and expense on Johnston matter	16 90
T. L. Hazen, assessors' books and postage	4 65
Jonas Longley, postage, express, etc.	2 62
J. A. Hume, election officer	3 00
Conant Bros. & Co., supplies	25
J. C. Ayers, election officer	3 00
H. Holden, election officer	6 00
W. F. Russell, election officer	3 00
G. M. Ballou, police goods, etc.	3 75
D. C. Parsons, perambulating Lancas- ter line	2 00

D. C. Parsons, keys to lockup, ex- press and telephone	2 20
R. M. Priest, repairs on town house	1 72
S. W. Longley, election officer	3 00
H. E. Lawrence, officer's fee	2 42
S. B. Scott, police work	2 00
S. B. Scott, distributing by-laws and supplies	6 02
H. E. Edgerton, car fares and postage	7 70
P. B. Dale, watering trough	3 00
A. F. Fernald, M. D., returning births	4 50
S. R. Holden, election officer	3 00
S. Farnsworth, wood for town house	5 00
H. M. Holden, perambulating town line	1 50
H. M. Holden, stove for town house	3 00
W. E. Barnard, refreshments	2 00
E. L. White, watering trough and fees in Johnston case	10 25
J. W. Farrar, supplies	3 32
Jonas Longley, recording births	16 50
Jonas Longley, recording deaths	4 10
Jonas Longley, recording marriages	2 25
J. E. L. Hazen, oaths and supplies	1 77
C. J. Pierce, M. D., reporting births	4 00
C. J. Pierce, M. D., fumigation	5 00
H. C. Owen, police work	4 00
Tower & Lyon, supplies	7 40
D. C. Parsons, legal services	30 00

 \$777 58

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Appropriation		\$250 00
Wm. A. Sawtell, care of house	\$25 00	
Salaries of firemen	172 00	
Conant Bros. & Co., supplies	9 95	
C. H. Miner, repairs	4 25	
H. O. Peasley	17 17	
H. C. Owens, repairs	4 50	
W. H. Brown, repairs	95	
R. M. Priest, repairs	40	
Cochrane Chemical Co., supplies	3 98	
Wright and Thomas	1 20	
H. A. Sawtell, engineer and repairs	12 50	
A. L. Noe, steward, etc.	21 25	
J. A. Hume, engineer	10 00	
	<hr/>	\$283 15

BRUSH FIRES.

Sundry persons		\$311 24
Amount received from Lunenburg	\$15 20	
Amount due from Lancaster	122 30	
	<hr/>	\$137 50

TOWN CEMETERY.

Appropriation		\$25 00
EXPENDITURES.		
Frank L. Longley	\$13 50	
J. T. Brown	3 50	
H. Mitchell	5 00	
	<hr/>	\$22 00

CEMETERY TRUST.

Income Gardner Fund	\$19 00	
Income Henry Fund	19 00	
Income Longley Fund	19 00	
	<hr/>	\$57 00

EXPENDITURES.

L. J. Papineau, labor	\$11 25	
J. F. Brown	12 75	
W. H. Brown, pump	10 50	
F. Lawton, labor on mill	14 40	
C. H. Parmenter	12 00	
	<hr/>	\$60 90

STREET LIGHTS.

Appropriation		\$100 00
G. M. Ballou, posts and setting	\$9 40	
W. H. Brown, lamps, lanterns, etc.	29 37	
J. B. Mason, oil	16 63	
H. C. Owens, care of lamps	17 60	
Samson Cordage Works	50	
R. M. Priest, setting glass	1 50	
	<hr/>	\$75 00

INSURANCE.

J. P. Hazen, school-house	\$25 00	
H. O. Peasley, engine	5 10	
H. O. Peasley, engine house	18 00	
J. P. Hazen, new school	66 00	
J. P. Hazen, new school	30 00	
H. O. Peasley, public library	60 00	
	<hr/>	\$204 10

NEW SCHOOL.

M. F. Prue & Son	\$3,500 00	
A. F. Fletcher, surveying	7 00	
J. P. Hazen, incidentals	9 11	
O'Toole Bros., furnace	360 00	
W. H. Cram	1 50	
Smith Bros.	35 00	
	<hr/>	\$3,912 61

SALARIES.

Appropriation		\$500 00
G. M. Ballou, Selectman	\$50 00	
D. C. Parsons, Selectman	75 00	
H. M. Holden, Selectman	40 00	
D. C. Parsons, Registrar	5 00	
H. M. Holden, Registrar	5 00	
T. L. Hazen, Assessor	42 00	
D. C. Parsons, Assessor	60 00	
M. W. Longley, Assessor	25 00	
H. Edgerton, Treasurer	65 00	
H. Edgerton, School Committee	35 00	
J. P. Hazen, School Committee	35 00	
Mrs. N. J. Rowell, School Committee	50 00	
Jonas Longley, Town Clerk	20 00	
E. L. White, Auditor, 95-96	5 00	
J. W. Thacher, Auditor, 95-96	5 00	
Jonas Longley, Registrar	7 00	
	<hr/>	\$524 00

TRANSPORTATION OF BOOKS.

J. C. Ayers	\$12 50
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LIBRARY.

J. E. L. Hazen, magazine	\$10 60
Estes & Lauriat, books	40 89
W. M. Sargent, binding	4 50
Conant Bros. & Co., fuel and supplies	23 00
Cummings & Remington, binding	24 35
W. H. Crossman, screens	5 50
A. M. Fuller, labor	2 25
F. S. Blanchard & Co., books	1 50
H. S. Turner, printing	4 50
E. Miller & Co., chandelier	15 36
G. M. Ballou, fuel	3 00.
Mary J. Hazen, supplies	1 83
M. J. Conant, magazines	4 00
Geo. F. Lewis, janitor	8 50
W. H. Wilbur	30
	<hr/>
	\$150 08

GUIDE POSTS.

In accordance with the requirements of the law, we submit the following report:

Guide posts have been maintained within the limits of the town, in compliance with Chapter 53 of the Public Statutes and Acts of Amendments thereof.

GILBERT M. BALLOU,
D. CHESTER PARSONS,
HENRY M. LONGLEY,

SELECTMEN.

ENGINEERS' REPORT.

SHIRLEY, February 20, 1897.

The Board of Engineers herewith respectfully present their annual report :

For the year ending 1896 we have had no fires, except forest fires.

We have thirty men at the present time.

Engine in good repair.

Respectfully submitted,

H. A. SAWTELL,
J. L. HUME,

BOARD OF ENGINEERS.

ASSESSORS' REPORT.

We, the Assessors of Shirley, herewith submit our report :

Town appropriations	\$8,425 00	
State tax	525 00	
County tax	753 07	
Overlayings	228 31	
	<hr/>	\$9,931 38

Tax rate \$12.70 per \$1,000.

Value of personal estate	\$137,536 00	
Value of buildings	341,220 00	
Value of land	251,682 00	
	<hr/>	\$730,438 00

Exempts	\$8,365 00	
Number of persons assessed on property	229	
Number of persons assessed on polls only	185	
Total number of polls	361	
Number of horses	229	
Number of cows	320	

Number of sheep	5
Number of other cattle	110
Number of swine	50
Number of dwellings	306
Number of acres of land	9,572
Number of fowls	840

THOMAS L. HAZEN,
D. CHESTER PARSONS,
MELVIN W. LONGLEY,
ASSESSORS OF SHIRLEY.

REPORT OF COLLECTOR OF TAXES

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1897.

Tax for 1895.

Tax warrant	\$9,673 65	
After tax	8 46	
Interest	10 92	
	<hr/>	\$9,693 03

Amount of payments	\$9,294 46	
Abatements	39 19	
Commission	120 92	
Discount	238 46	
	<hr/>	\$9,693 03

Tax for 1896.

Tax warrant	\$9,931 38	
Amount paid to treasurer	8,633 33	
	<hr/>	
Balance due town	\$1,298 05	

ABATEMENT OF TAXES

FOR THE YEAR 1895.

Daniel Andrews, paid in Vermont	\$2 00
Alec Bulger, 18 years old	2 00
Peter Bulger, 16 years old	2 00
E. F. Colburn, paid in Boston	2 00
Wm. W. Dodge, paid in Ayer	2 00
J. H. Flynn, paid in Easthampton	2 00
E. Pomfret, 19 years old	2 00
Mrs. H. S. Shearer, overtax on house, etc.	1 23
F. H. Taylor, not here	2 43
Timothy Thomas, left town	2 00
Frank Wheeler, not here	2 00
George Wheeler, not 20 years old	2 00
Fitchburg Savings Bank, brick block	12 30
Alonzo E. Willis, taxed in Ayer	1 23
W. J. Walsh, taxed in Clinton	2 00
	<hr/>
	\$39 19

I hereby certify that the above list and the reasons are correct.

S. B. SCOTT,

SHIRLEY, MASS., February 17, 1897.

COLLECTOR OF TAXES.

MIDDLESEX, SS.

SHIRLEY, February 17, 1897.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this day.

D. CHESTER PARSONS,

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.

THOMAS L. HAZEN,

D. CHESTER PARSONS,

MELVIN W. LONGLEY,

ASSESSORS OF SHIRLEY.

LIST OF JURORS FOR 1897-98.

The following list of Jurors has been prepared by the Selectmen for the acceptance of the Town at the Annual Meeting, to be held March 15, 1897.

Robertus F. Colburn,
Almond M. Holden,
Savillion W. Longley,
John W. Farrar,
John E. L. Hazen,
Herbert E. Lawrence,
Alphonso B. Sparrow,
Jacob P. Hazen,
John E. Gardner,

Fred. A. Lawton,
William H. Cram,
Augustus B. Cram,
James C. C. Parker,
Charles H. Andrews,
Lewis L. Warren,
Charles E. Young,
Melvin W. Longley,
Thomas L. Hazen,

Thomas J. Gateley.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

1896.

RECEIPTS.

Mar. 4.	Cash on hand	\$2,984 09
Mar. 12.	Cash received of Armina Foster	20 00
Mar. 20.	Cash of Commonwealth of Massachusetts, balance corporation tax	5 50
Mar. 20.	Cash of S. B. Scott, collector	94 50
April 6.	Cash of S. B. Scott, collector	80 51
May 5.	Cash of S. B. Scott, collector	86 77
May 16.	Cash of Commonwealth of Massachusetts, inspection of cattle	26 25
May 25.	Cash of First National Bank of Ayer, note	1,000 00
May 28.	Cash of S. B. Scott, collector	104 70
June 28.	Cash of First National Bank of Ayer, note	1,000 00
July 1.	Cash of International Trust Co., interest	247 07
July 1.	Cash of S. B. Scott	71 20
July 3.	Cash of First National Bank of Ayer, note	1,000 00
July 9.	Cash of G. W. Sanderson, clerk of court	2 38
July 9.	Cash of Louis Miller, license	6 00
July 9.	Cash of First National Bank of Ayer, interest	16 93
July 30.	Cash of S. B. Scott	308 63

Aug. 4.	Cash of S. B. Scott	\$109 14
Aug. 19.	Cash of S. B. Scott	125 00
Sept. 2.	Cash of S. B. Scott	90 42
Sept. 29.	Cash of S. B. Scott	642 30
Sept. 29.	Cash of Commonwealth of Massachusetts, state paup- ers	41 25
Oct. 3.	Cash of G. W. Sanderson, court fees	2 04
Oct. 5.	Cash of Town of Lancaster, poor	72 00
Oct. 9.	Cash of Commonwealth of Massachusetts, superin- tendent of schools	312 50
Oct. 12.	Cash of S. B. Scott	479 94
Oct. 12.	Cash of Town of Oxford, poor	8 00
Oct. 27.	Cash of S. B. Scott	1,459 27
Nov. 2.	Cash of S. B. Scott	4,000 00
Nov. 2.	Cash of Thos. L. Hazen, note	1,487 50
Nov. 12.	Cash of S. B. Scott	372 56
Dec. 2.	Cash of Thos. L. Hazen, note	500 00
Dec. 10.	Cash of Town of Clinton, poor	30 92
Dec. 10.	Cash of Commonwealth of Massachusetts, corpora- tion tax	142 50
Dec. 10.	Cash of Commonwealth of Massachusetts, bank tax	214 30
Dec. 10.	Cash of Commonwealth of Massachusetts, State aid	495 00

Dec. 10.	Cash of Commonwealth of Massachusetts, military aid	36 00
Dec. 11.	Cash of S. B. Scott	144 72
Dec. 17.	Cash of Commonwealth of Massachusetts, paupers	62 20
Dec. 17.	Cash of Commonwealth of Massachusetts, contagious diseases	81 00
Dec. 28.	Cash of S. B. Scott	128 50
1897.		
Jan. 1.	Cash of International Trust Co.	235 77
Jan. 2.	Cash of S. B. Scott	165 22
Jan. 4.	Cash of S. B. Scott	121 02
Jan. 5.	Cash of G. W. Sanderson, court fees	1 40
Jan. 9.	Cash of Town of Leominster, poor	22 50
Jan. 11.	Cash of First National Bank of Ayer, note	5,000 00
Jan. 16.	Cash of Alvin Lawton, license	1 00
Jan. 26.	Cash of S. B. Scott	205 16
Jan. 27.	Cash of Commonwealth of Massachusetts, school fund	362 57
Feb. 6.	Cash of County Treasurer, dog fund	134 52
Feb. 6.	Cash of Town of Lancaster, poor	20 00
Feb. 9.	Cash of S. B. Scott	201 11
Feb. 19.	Cash of H. M. Holden, use of town hall	7 00

Feb. 19.	Cash of Town of Clinton, poor	\$52 75
Feb. 23.	Cash of S. B. Scott	83 52
Feb. 24.	Cash of S. B. Scott	80 34
Mar. 1.	Cash of G. W. Sanderson, court fees	12 51
Mar. 1.	Cash of E. B. Winterbot- tom, rent	3 50
Mar. 1.	Cash of G. S. Wells, license	2 00
		<hr/> \$24,803 48

EXPENDITURES.

1896.

Mar.	Paid outstanding orders	\$110 03
Mar.	Paid March orders Nos. 1 to 61	1253 39
Apr.	Paid April orders Nos. 62 to 114	1114 94
May.	Paid May orders Nos. 115 to 175	1535 19
June.	Paid June orders Nos. 176 to 235	1894 71
July.	Paid July orders Nos. 236 to 272	431 38
Aug.	Paid August orders Nos. 273 to 316	562 62
Sept.	Paid September orders Nos. 317 to 366	777 11
Oct.	Paid October orders Nos. 367 to 419	1091 59
Nov.	Paid November orders Nos. 420 to 479	5726 44
Dec.	Paid December orders Nos. 480 to 522	3413 08

1897.

Jan.	Paid January orders Nos. 523 to 566	\$1151 51	
Feb.	Paid February orders Nos. 567 to 650	3929 13	
		<hr/>	22,991 12
Mar. 1.	Cash on hand		1,812 36
			<hr/>
			\$24,803 48

HENRY EDGARTON, Treasurer.

SHIRLEY, MASS., March 2, 1897.

AUDITORS' REPORT.

To the Citizens of Shirley:

We hereby certify that we have examined the accounts of the Selectmen, Town Treasurer and Overseers of the Poor, for the year ending March 1, 1897, and find them correctly kept, with proper vouchers for all money paid out.

JOHN G. CONANT,
HERMAN S. HAZEN,

AUDITORS.

REPORT OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES.

The Library Trustees submit the following report of receipts and expenditures, also of condition and use of Library during the past year, and would suggest that the sum of \$300 be appropriated for the year ensuing :

Number of books in circulation March 1, 1897	2112
Number of books of reference March 1, 1897	288
Number of days library was open	52
Number of persons taking books	244
Number of books taken	3963

Receipts.

Received from Town appropriation	\$150 00	
Received from fines and catalogues	16 02	
Received from Timothy Bolton Fund	3 52	
	<hr/>	\$169 54

Expenditures.

Estes & Lauriat, books	\$3 49
Mr. Crossman, labor	1 00
Express and freight	65
Cleaning library, Mrs. Fuller	3 45
Little, Brown & Co., books	4 10
Clock repairs	2 50
McClure's Magazine	1 00
Mucilage and sundries	1 43
Mr. Stebbins, cutting grass	1 85
J. E. L. Hazen, magazine	75
Estes & Lauriat, books	11 12
Estes & Lauriat, books	4 00
Mr. Sargent, rebinding	3 30
Mr. Crossman, screens	5 50
Binding magazines	24 35
Conant Bros., coal	7 39

Mrs. Fuller, cleaning	\$2 25	
Year book	1 50	
H. S. Turner, printing catalogues	4 50	
Century	3 50	
Conant Bros.	6 74	
E. F. Miller, lamp	15 36	
G. M. Ballou, wood	3 00	
Conant Bros.	5 25	
Mr. Lewis, janitor	5 50	
T. L. Hazen, books	1 83	
New England and Cosmopolitan Mag-		
azines	4 00	
Estes & Lauriat	25 77	
J. E. L. Hazen, magazines	9 85	
Mr. Sargent, binding books	1 20	
Mr. Lewis, janitor	3 00	
Express	30	
	<hr/>	169 43
		<hr/>
		11

W. H. WILBUR,
For the Trustees

REPORT OF BUILDING COMMITTEE

ON

NEW SCHOOL-HOUSE IN SHIRLEY VILLAGE.

To the Inhabitants of Shirley:

The committee elected to have charge of building the new School Building in Shirley Village, submit the following report :

Appropriation made by Town	\$5000 00	
Donation by C. F. Edgerton and J. P. Hazen	125 00	
	<hr/>	\$5125 00

Expenditures.

M. F. Prue & Son	\$3500 00	
O'Toole Bros.	360 00	
Edward A. Richardson, for land	125 00	
J. P. Hazen, insurance	96 00	
J. P. Hazen, cash paid for fares, express and telephoning	9 11	
Smith Bros.	35 00	
Frank Fletcher	7 00	
W. H. Cram	1 50	
	<hr/>	4133 61
Balance in hands of Committee		\$991 39

Bills remaining unpaid.

M. F. Prue & Son	\$893 50	
H. M. Francis	125 00	
Mason's bill (extra)	150 00	
Stone Mason (extra)	75 00	
	<hr/>	\$1243 50

This report shows the sum of two hundred and fifty-two dollars and eleven cents above appropriations, and was occasioned by extra work required to meet the requirements of the state authorities on ventilation, and about seventy-five dollars extra for setting the building back ten feet from Church Street, by order of the Selectmen. It will also cost two hundred and fifty dollars to furnish seats and black-boards, to properly complete the furnishing department, so that an appropriation of five hundred dollars (\$500) will be ample to do the rest of the work.

Your Committee congratulate the Town upon the completion of a beautiful school building, with modern improvements, for the comfort and happiness of the children and youth of the Town, and express the hope that the inhabitants of Shirley will realize a great reward for what they have done for the cause of education.

Your Committee hereby tender their services as Building Committee gratuitously, and hope the inhabitants will be satisfied with their work.

Respectfully submitted,

JACOB P. HAZEN,
HENRY EDGARTON,

BUILDING COMMITTEE OF NEW SCHOOL-HOUSE.

SHIRLEY, MASS., March 1, 1897.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT OF REG- ISTRATION.

MARRIAGES IN 1896.

Residence Shirley when not given.

- Jan. 7. Michael J. Jenoit,
Mattie Mushrall.
- Feb. 2. Joseph Canty, Gardner,
M. L. Levelley.
- Feb. 17. Fred Surret, Leominster,
Josephine Pippin.
- May 7. Charles La Page,
Maggie Foster.
- May 9. William H. Haskell, Berlin,
Louise A. Plummer.
- May 14. John E. Spaulding,
Nellie A. Stevens, Manchester, N. H.
- June 13. George Sidelow,
Eliza Crozier.
- Aug. 1. John W. Pomfret,
Ora B. Tevyaw.
- Sept. 20. William Bulger,
Mary Gilbert.
- Oct. 3. Will F. Russell,
Lulu G. Carpenter.
- Oct. 19. Fred Qutantay,
Armina Foster.
- Oct. 21. Waldo S. Farnsworth,
Emily G. Watling, Ayer.
- Nov. 24. Charles A. Ford,
Laura H. Cook.
- Nov. 25. Charles Nichols, Burlington, Mass.,
Hattie L. Fuller.
- Dec. 30. Carleton E. Meador,
Carrie E. Black.

BIRTHS.

Thirty-four births have been registered—twenty males and fourteen females.

DEATHS IN 1896.

Birthplace Shirley when not given.

		YRS.	MOS.	DYS.
Jan. 17.	Still-born.			
Jan. 18.	Harold W. Wilkinson, Maplewood	1	8	8
Feb. 9.	Robert Whitaker, England	71	8	5
Feb. 10.	Miriam Ballou, Greenfield	68	5	10
Mar. 1.	Clara D. Priest, Ashburnham	74	8	22
Mar. 2.	Ellen G. Neil, Ireland	80		
Mar. 25.	A. E. McIntyre			4
Mar. 26.	William Maxwell, England	68		
Apr. 10.	Caroline A. Orcutt, Athol	70		
May 9.	Peter Connors, Ireland	70		
June 16.	Frank Parmenter		10	
June 30.	Still-born.			
June 30.	Effie B. Slocomb, New Brunswick	31	6	
July 16.	Lizzie F. Randall, Victory, Vt.	29		21
Aug. 26.	Rhoda M. L. Holden	73	7	12
Sept. 9.	Charles Bulger, N. B.	59		25
Nov. 1.	Julia E. Scribner, New York	57	2	22
Nov. 6.	Ellen Ford, Ireland	65		
Nov. 6.	Ann M. Adams, Townsend	84	9	8
Nov. 22.	Nathan C. Prouty, Spencer	70	5	11
Dec. 22.	Elizabeth Dumas, Canada	55	5	18
Dec. 29.	John E. Nickelson, Sweden	64		27

Sixty-seven dogs have been registered from May 1, 1886, to May 1, 1897—sixty males and seven females.

Amount of fees received, \$155.

JONAS LONGLEY, Town Clerk.

TOWN WARRANT.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

MIDDLESEX SS.

*To Jonas Longley, Clerk of the Town of Shirley, in
said County,*

GREETING:

In the name of the Commonwealth, aforesaid, you are hereby required by posting an attested copy of this Warrant at the Postoffice in Shirley, and a like copy in the Postoffice in Shirley Village, eight days at least before the time herein appointed for the meeting, to notify and warn all the legal voters of said Town, to assemble in the Town Hall, on Monday, the fifteenth day of March instant, at ten o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon, to give in their votes on one ballot, for a Town Clerk, three Selectmen, and three Overseers of the Poor, three Assessors, Treasurer, one School Committee for three years, two Trustees of the Public Library for three years, two Auditors, Collector of Taxes, three Constables, and one Surveyor of Highways; also, to vote Yes or No on the question: Shall license be granted for the sale of intoxicating liquors in this Town. The Polls will be open at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, and may be closed at three o'clock P. M., of said day. Also, to act on the following Articles:

ARTICLE 1. To choose a Moderator.

ART. 2. To choose all officers not required by law to be chosen by ballot.

ART. 3. To hear the report of the Selectmen and act thereon.

ART. 4. To see what sum of money the town will raise and appropriate for the support of schools, and the poor, highways and bridges, fire department, enforcement of law, interest on notes, library, cemeteries, Memorial Day, street lights, salary of officers, transportation of library books, and all other necessary and incidental expenses of the town for the ensuing year.

ART. 5. To see what action the town will take in relation to the collecting of taxes.

ART. 6. To see if the town will fix the salary of the Tax Collector or act thereon.

ART. 7. To see if the town will authorize the Town Treasurer to borrow money in anticipation of taxes or act thereon.

ART. 8. To see if the town will accept or alter the list of jurors as prepared by the Selectmen.

ART. 9. To see if the town will raise and appropriate any sum of money to drain and repair the street leading from the Village Hall, in Shirley Village, to South street, so called, or act thereon.

ART. 10. To see if the town will vote to choose a Park Commissioner.

ART. 11. To see what action the town will take relative to the claim against the Nashoba Manufacturing Company for damages to highways, caused by the breaking of portion of dam near Mitchellville bridge, so called.

ART. 12. To see if the town will adopt the provisions of Chapter 264, Laws of 1890, relating to Public Cemeteries.

ART. 13. To see if the town will elect three Commissioners of Cemeteries as provided in Chapter 264 of the Laws of 1890.

ART. 14. To see if the town will raise and appropriate the sum of fifty dollars for the purpose of laying out new lots in the Village Cemetery or act thereon.

ART. 15. To see if the town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to sell or remove the No. 8 Brick School-house or act thereon.

ART. 16. To see if the town will raise and appropriate the sum of five hundred dollars for the purpose of furnishing the new school-house with seats and black-boards or act thereon.

ART. 17. To see if the town will vote to finish the upper room in the new school building or act thereon.

ART. 18. To see if the town will vote to accept the provisions of Sections 267, 268, 269 of Chapter 417 of the Acts of 1893, and the acts in amendment thereof or act thereon.

ART. 19. To see if the town will vote to borrow the sum of twenty-six hundred and fifty-seven dollars and fifty-seven cents for the purpose of paying the indebtedness of the town to the Parker School Fund or act thereon.

ART. 20. To see if the town will vote to borrow the sum of ten thousand dollars for the purpose of paying the floating indebtedness of the town or act thereon.

ART. 21. To see if the town will vote to purchase the shades, fixtures, etc., belonging to the disbanded Shirley Engine Company, and raise and appropriate a sum of money therefor or act thereon.

ART. 22. To see if the town will vote to establish an Almshouse or act thereon.

ART. 23. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money to establish an Almshouse or act thereon.

ART. 24. To see if the town will vote to repair the bridge near the engine house at Shirley Village and raise and appropriate a sum of money therefor or act thereon.

ART. 25. To see if the town will vote to revoke the acceptance of Chapter 374, of the Acts of 1895 or act thereon.

ART. 26. To see if the town will vote to employ a Town Physician, the salary to be fixed by bid, or act thereon.

ART. 27. To see what action the town will take relative to the claim of Joseph Seymour.

ART. 28. To see if the town will vote to grant lots in the Village Cemetery to all persons who now have lots that the town has not voted to grant them or act thereon.

ART. 29. To see if the town will vote to fix the salary of the Highway Surveyor or act thereon.

Hèreof, fail not and make return of this Warrant with your doings thereon to one of the Selectmen, at or before said meeting.

Given under our hand at Shirley, this fourth day of March, A. D. 1897.

G. M. BALLOU,
D. CHESTER PARSONS,
HENRY M. HOLDEN,

Selectmen of Shirley.

BY-LAWS OF THE TOWN OF SHIRLEY.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

MIDDLESEX, SS.

At the Superior Court begun and holden at Lowell, in said County of Middlesex, on the second Monday of March, being the thirteenth day of said month, Anno Domini 1882, the following By-Laws of the Town of Shirley are presented to this Court for approval, to wit :

ARTICLE I.

Truant Children and Absentees from School.

Sec. 1. The Town of Shirley hereby avails itself of the several provisions of the Statutes of this Commonwealth, now in force, relating to habitual truants and absentees from school, and in pursuance of authority conferred thereby, adopts the following by-laws.

Sec. 2. All children between the ages of seven and fifteen years, residing in said town, who shall be convicted of being habitual truants, or of wandering about in the streets or public places of said town, having no lawful occupation or business, not attending school, and growing up in ignorance, shall be committed to the "House of Reformation for Juvenile Offenders," now called the "Lowell Reform School."

Sec. 3. Two or more truant officers shall be appointed annually, whose duty it shall be to inquire into all the violations of the truant laws and of the law relating to compulsory education, and to do all the acts required of them by the laws of the Commonwealth.

Sec. 4. It shall be the duty of every truant officer, previous to making any complaint under these laws, to notify the truant, or absentee from school, also his parent or guardian of the offence committed, and of the penalty therefor, and if the truant officer can obtain satisfactory pledges for the restraint and reformation of the child, he may at his discretion forbear to prosecute, so long as such pledges are faithfully kept.

Sec. 5. It shall be the duty of the school committee, the teachers of the public schools, and the citizens generally, to aid the truant officers as far as possible, in the discharge of their duties.

Sec. 6. It shall be the duty of the truant officers to keep a full record of all their official acts, and make an annual report thereof to the school committee, who shall publish the same with their own report.

Sec. 7. Nothing in these by-laws shall be so construed as to alter or impair the obligation and duty of teachers to enforce punctuality and regularity of attendance, and to preserve good order and discipline.

Sec. 8. All by-laws concerning truants and absentees from school which have been adopted, prior to the adoption of this article, are hereby repealed.

Sec. 9. This article of the by-laws shall take effect five days after approval by justice of the Superior Court.

Which said by-laws being seen and understood by the Court, are on this ninth day of May, A. D. 1882, approved.

In testimony that the foregoing is a true copy of Record, I hereto set my hand and affix the seal of said Court, this tenth day of May, A. D. 1882.

THEO. C. HURD, Clerk.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

MIDDLESEX SS.

At the Superior Court within and for the County of Middlesex, Anno Domini, 1896.

The following By-laws of the Town of Shirley in said County, are presented to this Court for approval, to wit :

ARTICLE I.

Sec. 1. The annual town meeting shall be held the third Monday of March of each year.

Sec. 2. The financial year of the Town shall begin with the first day of March of each year.

Sec. 3. The annual reports of the town officers shall be distributed by mail or otherwise to each resident voter and taxpayer, and to all non-resident tax-payers at least five days before each meeting.

Sec. 4. No action shall be had, at any town meeting, on the report of any committee previously chosen, unless the subject matter shall be specified in the warrant calling such meeting.

ARTICLE II.

Sec. 1. Three or more persons shall not stand in a group or near to each other, on any sidewalk, in such a manner as to obstruct a free passage for foot passengers, for a longer time than five minutes, nor after a request to move on, made by any of the selectmen, constables or police officers of the town.

Sec. 2. No person shall ride or drive unnecessarily, on any of the streets of the town.

Sec. 3. No person shall pasture any cattle, or any other animals, in any of the streets of the town without a keeper.

Sec. 4. No person shall tie or fasten any horse, cattle, or team to any of the trees planted in any public highway, street or public lands in the Town, or to any structure put up for the protection of such trees, or except for necessary repairs, drive into, or affix to such trees or structure any nails, spikes, staples or signboards.

Sec. 5. No person shall place any obstruction in any street or on any sidewalk, and allow the same to remain there without first obtaining the consent, in writing, of the Board of Selectmen.

Sec. 6. No person shall place or cause to be placed in any public street or way of the Town any rubbish, ashes or garbage except for the purpose of immediate removal therefrom.

Sec. 7. No person shall throw the carcass of any animal into any of the ponds, or streams of water within the limits of the town, or suffer or leave any such carcass to decay on the surface of the ground, or to be insufficiently buried therein, near any building, public way or place.

Sec. 8. No person shall foul any well, spring, brook, pond or stream of water with any substance which shall kill the fish therein, or create offensive smells therefrom so as to injure the public health or annoy the inhabitants of the Town.

Sec. 9. No person shall drain their sink, stable, cesspool, outbuilding or any offensive matter into the public highway, street or public grounds. Any person violating this by-law who neglects or refuses to stop such drainage upon notice of the Board of Health so to stop the same, fixing the time when such drain shall be stopped, shall forfeit and pay a fine not exceeding five dollars for each day such neglect or refusal may continue.

Sec. 10. No person shall throw paper, hand bills, or advertising sheets of any kind in the public streets of the town and no person shall make any marks, letters, or figures of any kind or post any bills upon any wall, fence, post, tree, building, or structure, without the permission of the owner thereof.

Sec. 11. No person shall wantonly injure, mar, or destroy, any fence, sign board, guide board, awning, lamp post or lantern in any street in said Town.

Sec. 12. No person shall spit tobacco juice on the floor of any room in any public building, or on the floor of any hallway or entrance to any public building in said Town.

Sec. 13. No person, other than an abutter thereon, and those having charge of the streets, shall make any bonfire or other fire in any of the streets, avenues or public way of said Town.

Sec. 14. No person shall bathe, or swim, in any public or exposed place in Town without being clothed in a proper bathing suit.

Sec. 15. No person shall course, coast, or slide down, in or along any of the sidewalks or streets of the Town, upon any hand-sled, board, jumper or otherwise, except at such places and under such restrictions and regulations as the Board of Selectmen shall first designate and require, and specify in writing.

Sec. 16. No person shall play at ball, or throw balls, stones, snowballs or footballs or throw any missiles by hand or otherwise within any of the public streets of the Town, or do the same in any of the public grounds of the town without the permission of the Board of Selectmen first obtained in writing.

Sec. 17. No person shall fire or discharge any gun, fowling piece, pistol or fire-arms or set fire to any material known as "fireworks" or other combustible matter, or throw any such lighted fireworks in, into or across any of the streets or sidewalks of the town, except upon the Fourth of July of each year, without the permission of the Board of Selectmen first obtained in writing.

Sec. 18. Whenever the word "street or streets" is mentioned in these by-laws, it shall be understood as including alleys, courts, public squares, and it shall also be understood to include sidewalks, unless the contrary is expressed.

Sec. 19. Any person violating any of the provisions of the preceding sections of this article shall, except otherwise provided, be punished by a fine not exceeding twenty dollars for each and every offence, to be recovered by complaint before any trial justice, or district court in the County of Middlesex having jurisdiction over the Town.

Sec. 20. It shall be the duty of the selectmen, constables and police officers to prosecute, and any person injured may prosecute any violation of any of the preceding sections of this article, by complaint as hereinbefore mentioned, provided, however, that all prosecutions shall be commenced within three months from the date of any such violation.

ARTICLE III.

Sec. 1. All penalties recovered for a violation of any of the foregoing by-laws shall be paid into the treasury of the Town to be applied to such use as the Town from time to time shall direct.

Sec. 2. These by-laws shall take effect five days after their approval by the justice of the Superior Court.

Sec. 3. All by-laws adopted by the Town prior to the adoption of this code are hereby repealed, except the by-laws concerning "Truants and Absentees from School."

Which said By-laws being seen and understood by Court, are on this 30th day of June, A. D. 1896, approved.

In testimony that the foregoing is a true copy of Record, I hereto set my hand and affix the seal of said Court, this second day of July, A. D. 1896.

THEO. C. HURD, Clerk.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
AND
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
OF THE
TOWN OF SHIRLEY
FOR THE
* YEAR 1896-97. *

AYER, MASS.
HUNTLEY S. TURNER, BOOK AND JOB PRINTER.
1897.

MEMBERS OF SCHOOL BOARD.

MRS. N. J. ROWELL. Term expires 1897.

HENRY EDGARTON. Term expires 1898.

JACOB P. HAZEN. Term expires 1899.

ORGANIZATION.

HENRY EDGARTON, Chairman.

MRS. N. J. ROWELL, Secretary and Supply Agent.

CHAS. L. CLAY, Superintendent of Schools.
Residence, Harvard, Mass.

SCHOOL ASSETS.

Appropriations	\$2800 00	
1896.		
Oct. 9. Com. of Mass. Supt.	312 50	
1897.		
Jan. 1. Longley Fund	238 55	
Jan. 1. Parker Fund	192 03	
Com. of Mass. School Fund	362 57	
County Treas., Dog Fund	133 52	
	<hr style="width: 10%; display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"/>	\$4040 17

Com. of Mass., due $\frac{3}{4}$ year, Supt. 8-28th	
of \$1250.00	\$238 30

Teachers	\$3007 30	
Janitors	236 65	
Repairs	165 45	
Supplies	242 37	
Fuel	132 05	
Transportation	45 00	
Incidentals	40 55	
Superintendent	504 46	
	<hr style="width: 10%; display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"/>	\$4373 83

SCHOOLS.

SUPERINTENDENT.

Charles L. Clay	\$504 46
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TEACHERS.

Minnie Holden	\$446 50
Charlotte L. Conant	114 00
Clara Louise Coffin	444 00
Lura A. White	342 00
Adella M. Boutwell	190 00
Mary Bayfield	190 00
Mrs. Gates-Lockhart	114 00
Grace I. Chapin	225 00
Rose McGowan	250 00
Jennie B. Sanborn	139 00
Ethel L. Stratton	207 00
Mabel P. Conant	171 00
Amy M. Carter	4 80
Addie M. Quimby	90 00
Harriet N. Stone	32 00
Laura M. Merriam	48 00
	<hr/>
	\$3007 30

SUPPLIES.

Houghton, Mifflin & Co.	\$9 80
J. L. Hammett Co.	73 79
Mrs. Gates-Lockhart	2 40
D. C. Heath & Co.	5 27
New Century Educational Co.	7 20

Silver, Burdett & Co.	\$32 71	
Ginn & Co.	28 04	
Wm. M. Sargent	31 34	
Conant Bros. & Co.	2 83	
Chas. L. Clay	15 15	
Werner School Book Co.	12 71	
W. H. Wilbur	2 01	
H. O. Peasley	6 88	
Maynard & Duncan	1 20	
E. E. Babb & Co.	8 04	
Eva M. Harrington	2 00	
J. E. L. Hazen	1 00	
	<hr/>	\$242 37

JANITORS.

Morton E. Lawrence	\$61 50	
Forest Stanton	37 50	
W. J. Baker	30 75	
H. C. Owens	65 75	
Alice Dawborn	11 70	
M. H. Burns	24 00	
C. S. Fuller	5 45	
	<hr/>	\$236 65

REPAIRS.

Morton E. Lawrence	\$ 50	
W. H. Crossman	75	
H. C. Owens	10 35	
H. A. Sawtell	46 53	
W. H. Brown	3 40	
L. W. Phelps	95 17	
Barstow Stove Co.	1 40	
F. S. Potter	4 40	
R. M. Priest	50	
L. Sherwin & Co.	1 00	
G. M. Ballou	1 45	
	<hr/>	\$165 45

TRANSPORTATION.

Geo. Holden	\$25 00	
E. D. Longley	20 00	
	<hr/>	\$45 00

FUEL.

J. P. Hazen	\$30 00	
Samuel Farnsworth	50 00	
H. O. Peasley	52 05	
	<hr/>	\$132 05

INCIDENTALS.

James Gately, cleaning	\$15 50	
J. A. Sargent, cleaning	2 25	
M. H. Burns	3 50	
W. H. Cram, transportation of Mrs. Gates-Lockhart	6 00	
Mrs. N. J. Rowell, express, etc.	4 30	
H. C. Owens, truants	9 00	
	<hr/>	\$40 55

At a meeting of the Board, held Tuesday, February 9, 1897, the Superintendent of Schools submitted his annual report, which was accepted and adopted as the report of the School Committee for the year ending March 1, 1897.

HENRY EDGARTON,
N. J. ROWELL,
JACOB P. HAZEN,

SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

To the School Committee of Shirley:

I have the honor to submit to you my second report for the year ending March 1, 1897.

Before entering upon a few details relating more particularly to our own schools, I wish to present some items of interest, general to the district of Bolton, Boylston, Harvard and Shirley, taken from the Fifty-ninth Annual Report of the State Board of Education, 1894-5, and from the advance sheets of the Sixtieth Report 1885-6. The valuable reports, suggestions, recommendations, etc., of our State Secretary and his co-laborers do not reach the common people, the great body of the patrons of our schools.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

The number of persons in the State, May 1, 1895, between 5 and 15, was 417,335; the number of all ages in the public schools for 1895-6 was 424,353, an increase of 11,400; the average attendance 321,685, an increase of 7,992; the percentage of attendance was 92; in Bolton it was 91, Boylston 91, Harvard 91, Shirley 90.

School attendance and truancy was investigated and reported upon in 1894-5, in fifty cities and towns containing 26,968 pupils between 8 and 14; one of these towns, Boxboro, was contiguous to our district; of the number who failed to attend school the required 140 days of the school year, 1,398 were on account of disability (excusable causes), 1,380 parental neglect (which includes indifference, indolence, carelessness and cupidity on the part of the parent, visiting

by the child and working during term time), 125 truancy, 28 distance from school, 49 want of suitable clothing, 269 sundry kinds of work. Had this district been included in the investigation the result would not have been much different, for each town is "guilty" to some degree.

The report says, "It is not apparent, too, that neither the officials nor the parents have an abiding sense of the privileges afforded the children by the schools, or of the evil effects of irregular attendance upon the children. And is it not true that there is in the community a lack of intelligence concerning the duty of properly restraining children, in order that they may form habits of regularity, industry, order, patience, perseverance and self-control? These are habits which fit the child to be a good citizen. To aid in forming them is one of great ends for which schools are maintained."

TEACHERS AND WAGES.

The number of different teachers employed in the State was 12,275; of whom 1,078 were men, 11,197 women. Of these, only 4,540 have attended Normal schools. The men received on an average \$136.03 a month; the women \$50.30. In our district the average wages for women was: Bolton \$32.67, Boylston \$39.44, Harvard \$32.67, Shirley \$40.54; for 1896-7, Bolton \$34.00, Boylston \$41.34, Harvard \$34.26, Shirley \$37.24.

The demand for teachers of professional training is constantly increasing. Over 1,500 vacancies occur annually in the schools, while the Normal schools graduate only about 300.

NUMBER OF SCHOOLS AND TRANSPORTATION.

According to the popular local count there are 4,539 schools (by count of rooms 9,153), a decrease of 51, which is explained by the process now going on of consolidating feeble and scattered rural schools into stronger central ones

and transporting the children thereto. The amount expended for such transportation in 1895-6 was \$91,136.11 — an increase of \$14,527.82 over 1894-5. 213 towns made returns for transportation expenses, ranging from \$1.55, \$3.00 and \$5.00 for Carver, Goshen and Swansea respectively, to \$2,195, \$2,523 75 and \$2,699.85 for Concord, Lexington and Weston respectively. The secretary says, "While vexatious questions not unfrequently arise about the necessity, the kind, the extent, the distance and the cost of transportation, the general policy of transportation as a factor in the solution of the question as to what can be done for small, ungraded schools in sparsely settled regions of the State is proving to be very helpful.

"The school committee has no right to spend money for transportation without the town specifically authorizes such expenditure, but when authorized by vote of the town, it has absolute charge of the settlement of details. Whatever the committee does, it is always under statutory obligation to provide convenient schooling for every eligible child. Schooling is made convenient by locating the school-house near the child, or transporting the child to the school-house. What is a reasonable walking distance the committee must decide for itself. Little children should not be made to walk over a mile, while those of grammar-school age may walk a mile and a half or even more. Conditions will modify this statement. Transportation should not be made to reduce sturdiness, self-reliance and reasonable self-denial in boys and girls. It cannot be made equally convenient for all families. It often has to be made partial for some while complete for others."

THE RURAL SCHOOL PROBLEM.

There are more than 1,000 rural schools in the State classed under three heads:

- I. A few schools in the outskirts of large towns. We have no large ones in our district.

2. Those found in smaller towns having villages of sufficient size to allow a partial grading of the central schools. Bolton has 3 such, Harvard 2, Shirley 4.

3. Those found in country towns having no villages of sufficient size to support primary and grammar grades. Boylston comes in this class. All of the schools in this district are rural of classes 2 and 3. When State Agent Fletcher reported on these schools he could equally as well have had our district in mind for he says what is true of us. "The population and valuation of a large number of these towns have greatly diminished in recent years. The number of children has decreased in a larger ratio, as families are now small where they were formerly large. The small population is generally scattered over the town and the old district centers are still marked by school-houses of more prosperous days.

Some of the people in these small towns object to changes that are rendered necessary by present conditions. Years ago every school-house was filled with children; now some schools have an attendance of only 5 or 10 pupils. It costs as much to teach a small school as a large.

When a teacher is paid \$7.00 a week to teach 10 pupils 35 weeks, the cost per pupil is \$24.50; but if a teacher is paid \$9.00 a week to instruct 25 pupils the same time, the cost is but \$10.02 per pupil for instruction that is probably of far more value.

The first two factors involved in the problem of improvement are, (1), diminishing the number of the schools and so increasing the size, for economy and efficiency in teaching, (2), classification of all scholars.

SUPERVISION.

For 259 towns and cities there are 151 superintendents, 3 assistants and 6 supervisions, 50 being district superintendents for 148 towns. These 259 towns and cities have a population of 2,353,858 and contain 91 per cent. of the

schools of the State and 93.8 per cent. of the pupils. The 94 towns not under supervision have a population of 146,325 and contain 9 per cent. of the schools and 6.2 per cent. of the pupils of the State. If you will construct squares upon two three-inch lines, divide each into 100 equal squares, shade out 91 from one, and 93.8 from the other, you will have a visual relation of the above statements. A bill is before the Legislature to make supervision universal and permanent throughout the State. In reference to this, the State Board of Education has issued a circular, which I quote in its main points.

Some of the reasons why the State should insist upon competent supervision of all its schools are the following:

1. Because supervision has improved the schools in a marked degree wherever it has been given a thorough trial.

2. Because it is the duty of the State to insist upon a wise expenditure of the money so liberally appropriated for the support of the public schools.

3. Because it is for the best interest of the State to have a settled and permanent policy in the management of its schools.

3. Because many towns cannot make suitable combinations and be conveniently grouped into districts until supervision is required of all.

5. Because supervision cannot become universal except by making it mandatory and providing for the formation of districts when the towns themselves cannot effect unions.

6. Because many of the towns not now under supervision desire such legislative action. Nearly forty towns have at different times voted in favor of uniting with other towns to secure supervision, but have been unable to effect unions.

7. Because in the towns indifferent or opposed to supervision, many intelligent people desire it and are persuaded that the majority will come to appreciate it, if it has a fair trial, just as the majority of the people everywhere else have come to do so.

8. Because the schools will fare better if the energies heretofore expended in securing and maintaining supervision as a policy, are concentrated upon improving supervision in quality.

The leading provisions of the supervision bill are the following:

1. Supervision to become the fixed and universal policy of the State on and after July 1, 1898.

2. Towns having a valuation above \$2,500,000 to be permitted to unite through the action of their school committees in the employment of a superintendent of schools.

3. Towns having a valuation less than \$2,500,000 to be formed by their school committees into union districts for the employment of superintendent of schools.

4. State aid for each district to be \$1,500; \$750 for the employment of a superintendent and \$750 for the salaries of teachers.

5. School committees of a district, unless it is otherwise provided by themselves, to have a vote in the selection of a superintendent, proportional to the town's share of the expenditure of the superintendent's salary.

6. Towns with a valuation less than \$2,500,000 to be permitted to unite with a town above that valuation in the employment of a superintendent, the former to receive proportional aid from the State.

7. The State Board of Education to have authority to arrange districts and district boundaries for towns not in district on or before July 1, 1898, and for towns thereafter unable to effect unions

8. Districts with less than twenty-five schools permitted to be formed with the approval of the Board of Education.

9. Unions to be subject to reorganization July 1, 1900, and at intervals of five years thereafter.

10. Superintendencies existing at the time of the passage of this act not to be invalidated.

THE SUPERINTENDENT.

The duties and powers of the Superintendent of Schools are not well defined. The only authority delegated to him by the law of the State is that of signing employment certificates. His work "ex-officio" bears the same relation to the educational interests of the towns, as that of superintendent of a mill or railroad for instance, bears to the interests of the corporation employing him. Under the school committee he is given "the charge and supervision of the schools." State Agent Edson says: "His duties may be classed as general and professional. His more prominent general duties are to inspect the school premises, the grounds, buildings and out-houses; to see that proper methods of heating, lighting and ventilating are in use; to select text and reference books, apparatus and supplies, and see to their distribution: in brief, to attend to the endless details accompanying the business part of school administration. His professional duties require him to be a thorough student of the science and art of education, of psychology with special reference to child-study; he needs a large and successful experience in teaching, especially in the elementary grades; he must keep abreast of all advanced educational movements; he is to arrange courses of study, wisely interpret and intelligently apply them.

He is lead into relations with four classes of people: (1), the school committee, (2), teachers, (3), pupils, (4), and the public.

I. Of the committee, he is the executive head or agent. It is the province of the committee to legislate, consider, decide; it is the province of the superintendent to study every phase of education, suggest what he thinks is of the best interests of the schools, and after the decision of the committee to execute their wishes; as far as the management and instruction of the schools is concerned, he is their responsible head.

2. That the teacher makes the school a truth never to be changed and never to be forgotten. But the superintendent is in the fullest sense a teacher. He is not only a teacher among the teachers, but by virtue of his office he is a teacher of the teachers under his charge. He is in a position to understand what are the essentials of detail, and wisely to direct the teacher away from magnifying what is non-essential. In methods he should be master. He leads the teacher to present the proper occasions for ideas by the help of things which appeal to his senses, his sensibilities and his understanding.

If the relations and statements under 1 and 2 are correct, it follows "that the superintendent should be allowed to exert a large influence in determining what persons shall be employed as teachers." (This is the case throughout our district). His power over appointments, under the law, must be limited by the endorsement of the committee. Under ordinary circumstances, a teacher should not be appointed or discharged without the concurrence of the superintendent. The plans and purposes of the intelligent superintendent depend upon sympathetic and intelligent teachers.

3. The superintendent sees that the schools are provided with the things necessary for the bodily health and comfort of the pupils, as well as with every appliance for their instruction. He assists in examining, classifying and promoting pupils, encourages pupils to be prompt and regular at school, and *ought* to see that the truant officers do their duty. He excites the ambition of pupils to obtain a good education, and to fit themselves to become prepared for the responsibilities of manhood and citizenship.

4. He often renders the schools invaluable service by interesting the people, the fathers and mothers, taxpayers and voters in the present condition and needed improvements, by arranging special visiting days, by providing monthly and yearly reports of pupils' work and progress for

the inspection of parents. When people hear much (for good) of the schools, visit them often and appreciate their needs, they appropriate liberally for their support. The superintendent often acts as intermediary in settling differences between parents and children on the one hand and teachers on the other."

All our teachers' meetings are open to the public, to which all interested will be cordially welcomed, to see and learn what is being attempted—"and of modern education, its purpose, means and methods."

COST OF SCHOOLS.

The total expended upon the public schools of the State for 1895-6, for all purposes, wages of teachers, fuel, supplies and supervision, reached the large sum of \$4.65 on \$1000 of the state valuation, or \$11,829,190.61.

The cost per pupil, exclusive of repairing all school-houses, based on average attendance of pupils between 5 and 15, was \$24.73.

TEXT-BOOKS AND SUPPLIES.

The average cost, based as above, for 1894-5, was \$1.50 for the year. In our district it was: Bolton, \$1.83; Boylston, \$1.70; Harvard, \$2.60; Shirley, \$1.00; for 1895-6, Bolton, \$1.15; Boylston, \$1.54; Harvard, \$2.64; Shirley, \$1.43.

There is a bill before the present legislature, known as "the half-mill tax," by which it is proposed to raise the State's appropriation for public schools, and to partially equalize the burden which the commonwealth imposes upon the towns and cities in requiring them to give all children an education. The burden now rests very unequally. The following is based upon dates of 1895-6: State—Total valuations, \$2,542,348,993; pupils, average attendance, 351,685; valuation per pupil, \$7,903; tax rate for schools per \$1000 if equally distributed, \$3.32. As it is, some

towns have to raise a school tax in order "to obey the state's commands of only \$2.06, \$1.89, \$1.21; others \$6.96, \$8.95, \$9.43. Nahant puts behind each of her pupils \$49,101 and pays a school rate of \$1 05. Clarksburg can put behind her pupil only \$1,508 and pays a rate of \$7.23. These are not the extreme cases in the state. For the towns in this district I give the valuation per pupil, school rate and the gain, respectively, had the tax been thus levied last year: Bolton, \$4,588, \$3.66, \$344.74; Boylston, \$5,711, \$3.91, \$195.09; Harvard, \$7,675, \$4.20, \$27.36; Shirley, \$3,942, \$4.87, \$740.71. A full list can be had by applying to J. W. McDonald, State Agent, Stoneham.

READING.

If there is one study more important than another to our children, it is reading. I think it is the foundation of the acquisition of knowledge, and should be the main work of the primary grades. She who cannot successfully teach this art to the little children should not find a place in schools where there are little children who must learn to read. "There comes to most children between the ages of five and eight years a period of time during which they learn to read with great facility; that time passed never returns," a noted educator has said. In almost every school in the middle and upper grades can be found pupils whose reading shows "arrested development," the result of inexperience, or want of knowing how best to teach the subject on the part of their earlier teachers. During the past few years this subject has probably engaged the attention of school officers and educators more than any other, and State Agent Prince says: "In no other board of instruction have there been greater advances in respect both to the interest of pupils and to practical results than in the subject of reading; that "at present in very few towns is the reading confined to the regular graded readers; in many towns and cities pupils are led, sometimes as early as

the third year, to read supplementary books, and to continue their reading to the end of the course."

Leominster has no graded readers Springfield and Brookline, whose schools for city and town are reported to be the best in the State, use only regular school readers in the first three grades, supplementing the same by several appropriate books. Very seldom do we find, in these days, pupils using as readers "everything available," but the best books from the best authors of the present and the past are read in our schools. This all tends to early establishing a taste for good literature and cultivating the same through all the school life of the pupils. Some of the reading books recently published are "marvels of beauty" in illustration and decoration, and the cost is comparatively small. I always feel that money put into a good book, that must make the pupil reading it have better and nobler thoughts, is money well expended.

The following will suggest to teachers and pupils the class of books appropriate for the grades. It includes something of literature, history, science and geography :

Grade I. Fables and Rhymes; Fairy Tale and Fable

II. Nature's Stories; Nature's Byways; Fables and Folk Stories.

III. Nature's History, Readers Nos. 1 and 2; Friends in Feathers and Furs; Esop's Fables; Madam How and Lady Why; Stories from Mythland.

IV. The Water Babies; American History Stories; Little Folks of Other Lands; Grimm's Tales; Seven Little Sisters; Each and All; Brooks and Brook Basins; Seaside and Wayside, No. 1; Anderson's Fairy Tales; Black Beauty. -

V. The King of the Golden River; Hiawatha; Tanglewood Tales; Our Old World, No. 1; Seaside and Wayside, No. 2; First Book in American History; Our Own Country.

VI. Sketch Books; Peasant and Prince; Miles Standish; Christmas Carol; Our American Neighbors; Ten Boys on the Road from Long Ago; Gods and Heroes; Seaside and Wayside, No. 3.

VII. Snow-Bound; Birds and Bees; Uncle Tom's Cabin; Evangeline; Man Without a Country; United States History; Franklin's Autobiography; History of a Candle; Story of Our Continent; Little Daffydowndilly.

VIII. Tales from Shakespeare; Lady of the Lake; Stories of the Old World; A Hunting of the Deer; First Bunker Hill Oration; Cricket on the Hearth; Footprints of Travel; Merchant of Venice; How We Are Governed; The Gettysburg Speech; Fairyland of Science; Selections from Holmes and Other Poets; Rip Van Winkle.

IX. Vision of Sir Launfal; Ivanhoe; The Talisman; Leading Facts in English History; Julius Cæsar; Enoch Arden; Great World's Farm; Boys and Girls in Biology; Masterpieces of American Literature.

The schools through the district are working along this line of reading.

SHIRLEY SCHOOLS IN PARTICULAR.

For the numerical facts connected with our schools, changes of teachers, etc., I refer to the tables and lists accompanying this report, which I trust will be carefully examined by everyone.

The changes of teachers (all thereunto moving of their own accord) have been more than were desirable. The somewhat remote and secluded situation of the out-districts, few pupils and ungraded; the make-up of the village schools in the lower grades, with the heretofore poor accommodations, render it difficult to retain the services of good teachers after they have acquired some experience.

The resignation of the teacher at the Centre during the Christmas recess to accept an offer more to her convenience was, in my estimation, a violation of implied, if

not actual, contract, and not creditable to one who should make the interests of the employing party of prior importance.

We have had a successful school year, and at present have an excellent corps of teachers.

It is with great satisfaction that my recommendation of a year ago proved "the straw that broke the camel's back" of things as they were, so that the town, fully realizing the necessity of better accommodations for the village schools, generously proceeded to erect as suitable and as fine a school building of its size as can be found in any place. It is a structure ornamental in design as well as conveniently arranged and located. I feel that, after examining it, every citizen will be glad that we have it, and will point to it as the one school building of the town of which we are proud.

Following my suggestion as to retaining and educating our own pupils above the eighth grade, at the beginning of the fall term you put an assistant into the Grammar school. A vacant ante-room supplied a place for recitations. I think it was a misstep. The five grades gave an abundance of work for both teachers. Pupils and teachers have been interested.

With the completing of the new building, now so near at hand, I recommend that for the coming spring term the seventh, eighth and ninth grades be put into the west room, a division of the fourth, the fifth and sixth grades occupy the east room, the Second Primary be put up-stairs in the present building, and the whole lower floor be given to the use of the First Primary.

The seating of the Grammar room is both antiquated and entirely unsizeable for primary children, and the lower room is absolutely unfitted for school use. I urge you to ask the town for a sufficient appropriation to reseat these two rooms for the necessity as well as the comfort of the little children. The lower room also needs a new floor.

If the policy recommended last year is to be carried out, and something of a high school started, it will be necessary to ask for a sufficient appropriation to finish and furnish the upper room of the new building, for at the end of next term we shall have a tenth grade.

I recommend that all eighth and ninth grade pupils in the Centre, North and East districts be allowed to attend at the village. They will receive more and much better instruction than they possibly can get in their present small ungraded classes.

The work of Mrs. Lockhart, special music instructor, has been enjoyed, to their great advantage, by the pupils of all the schools. The exhibition of a class in music from Miss Coffin's school, under Mrs. Lockhart's direction, before the Northwest Middlesex Teachers' Association at Ayer, November 15, did great credit to the pupils and teachers.

Our average attendance is not what it should be. Cranberry picking and strawberry time are as productive of low attendance as epidemics of diphtheria and scarlet fever. Schools and berry picking cannot profitably be carried on at the same time by the same children.

I wish to state my appreciation of the hearty support of the committee; to express my pleasure in the sympathetic co-operation of all the teachers, and to thank the citizens of the town for their confidence and esteem.

Respectfully submitted,

CHAS. L. CLAY, Superintendent.

ROLL OF HONOR, 1896-97.

The figures denote the number of terms neither absent nor tardy :

GRAMMAR.

Francis Boucher, 2	Winnie Butler, 1
Marion Ballou, 2	William Banford, 1
Frank Balcom, 1	Verne Ballou, 1
Henry Brown, 1	Delia Bruno, 1
Etta Gately, 2	Fred Holden, 1
Edith Livingston, 1	George Pomfret, 1
	Ida Sandlin, 1

INTERMEDIATE.

Arthur Boucher, 3	Arthur Casey, 1
Eva Cummings, 1	Moses Hunt, 2
Barbara Hazen, 2	Lester Lawton, 1
Leo Meegan, 2	Evelyn Miner, 2
Edmund O'Neil, 1	Leo O'Neil, 1
Agnes Simard, 1	Martha Theilig, 1
George Wilson, 1	Ezekiel Wilson, 1

SECOND PRIMARY.

Rodney Brown, 2	Angeline Bruno, 3
John Freidrich, 2	Otto Freidrich, 1
Gertrude O'Neil, 1	Clara Penesau, 1
Willie Theilig, 2	Ernest Theilig, 2

FIRST PRIMARY.

Ernest Dumas, 1
Lester Kivers, 1

Mary Freidrich, 2
Bernice Young, 1

CENTER.

Edith Longley, 1

Edna Willis, 1
Herman Willis, 2

EAST.

Geo. B. Clark, 1
Lillian Dale, 1
Harry Harvey, 1
Forest Stanton, 1

David Dale, 2
Clara Dale, 1
Ralph Jenkins, 3
Royal Towle, 1

NORTH.

Nellie Cronin, 3
Annie Cronin, 2
Chester Fuller, 2
Earl Sleeper, 2

Katie Cronin, 3
Alice Dawborn, 3
Viola Farrar, 1
Cora Sleeper, 2.

The highest percent of attendance reached was 98, by the Grammar school, for the month of April.

LIST OF TEACHERS, 1896-97.

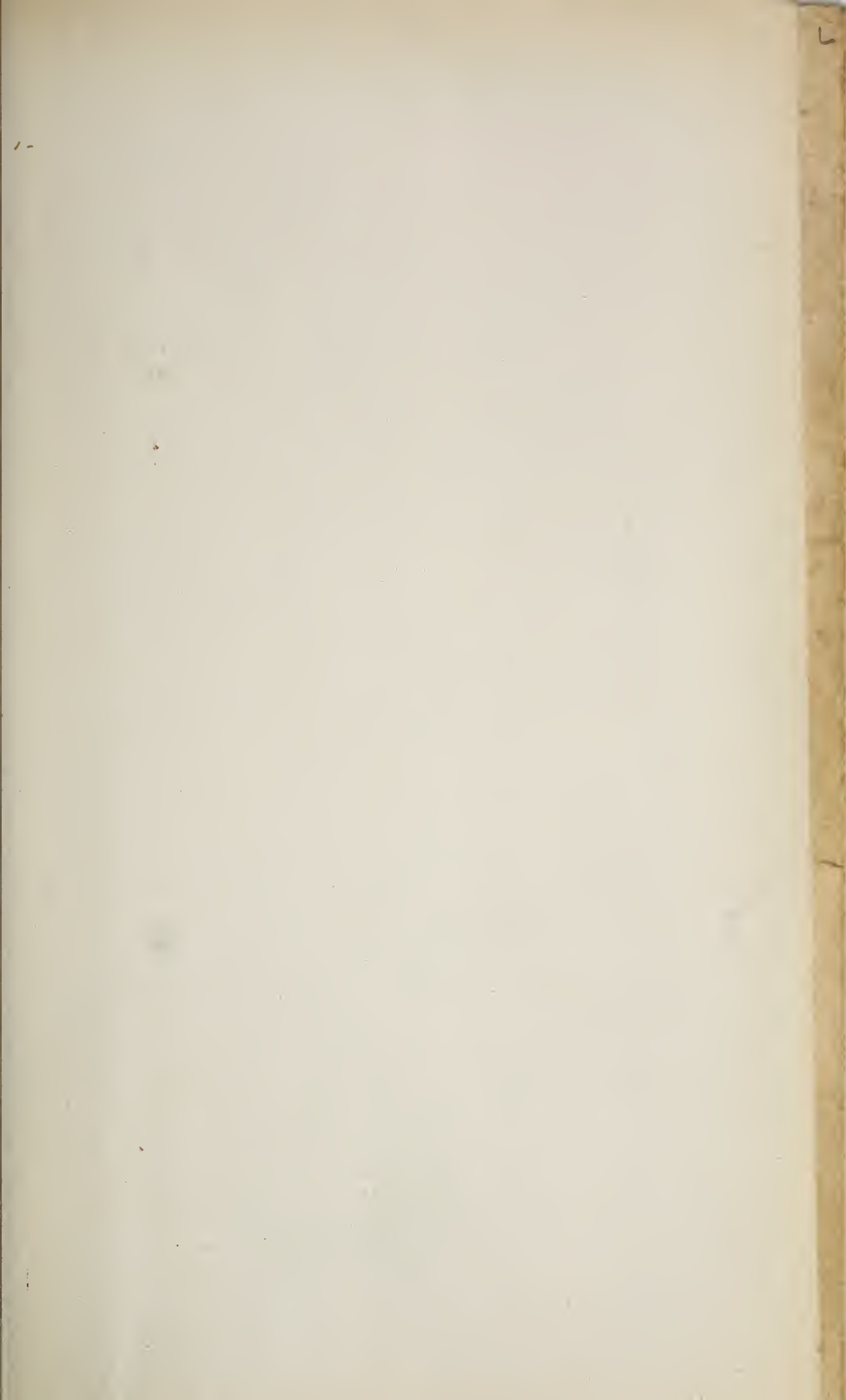
23

SCHOOLS.	TEACHERS.	WHEN APPOINTED.	WHERE EDUCATED.	SALARY.
Grammar,	{ Clara L. Coffin	April 1895	Bridgewater Normal	\$12 00
	{ Jennie C. Sanborn*	Aug. 1895	Salem Normal	{ 6 00
Intermediate,	{ Mary Bayfield	Dec. 1894	Bridgewater Normal	{ 9 00
	{ Ethel M. Stratton	Aug. 1896	Quincy Training	{ 10 00
First Primary,	{ Lura A. White	Sept. 1891	Framingham Normal	{ 9 00
	{ Adella M. Boutwell	Dec. 1895	Bridgewater Normal	{ 9 00
Second Primary,	{ Mabel P. Conant	Aug. 1896	Saxton's River Academy	{ 10 00
	{ M. Rose McGowan	Dec. 1895	Worcester Normal	{ 9 00
Centre,	{ Harriet V. Stone	Nov. 1896	Quincy Training	{ 10 00
	{ Laura M. Merriam	Jan. 1897	Framingham Normal	{ 8 00
North,	{ Minnie A. Holden	April 1895	Cushing Training	{ 8 00
	{ Grace Q. Chapin	April 1896	Worcester Normal	{ 9 50
East,	{ Addie M. Quimby	Nov. 1896	Littleton (N. H.) High	{ 9 00

* Assistant since September.

SCHOOL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 1897.

SCHOOLS.	Grades.	Weeks of School.	Pupils enrolled.	Average membership.	Average attendance.	Percent of attendance.	Pupils under 5.	Pupils bet. 5 and 15.	Pupils bet. 8 and 14.	Pupils over 15.	Half-days of absence.	Tardinesses.	Dismissals.	Visits by Committee.	Visits by Superintendent.	Visits by others.
Grammar,	5-9	38	40	38.1	36.7	.96	0	40	40	0	843	37	74	1	24	18
Intermediate,	3-4	38	46	41.7	36.0	.86	0	46	46	0	1424	71	12	1	22	5
Second Primary,	2-3	38	47	36.0	32.0	.89	0	47	44	0	1163	32	40	2	22	23
First Primary,	1	38	56	34.0	30.5	.90	0	56	9	0	1320	39	12	0	21	14
Centre,	1-7	35	33	18.0	15.0	.90	0	30	16	3	657	36	24	5	23	36
North,	1-7	35	23	18.8	17.3	.92	0	23	14	0	499	42	16	2	22	25
East,	1-9	35	20	16.5	15.6	.95	1	17	14	2	405	93	58	2	24	57
Totals,	1-9	257	265	203	183.0	.90	1	259	183	5	6311	350	236	13	158	178
Totals 1895-'96,	1-8	267	236	198	187.0	.94	0	227	147	9	7546	435	294	81	134	300





ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Selectmen of Shirley

TOGETHER WITH A

Report of the Treasurer, Assessors, Overseers of Poor,
Fire Department, Trustees of the Public Library,
Auditors, Items from the Town Clerk's
Book, and Town Warrant,

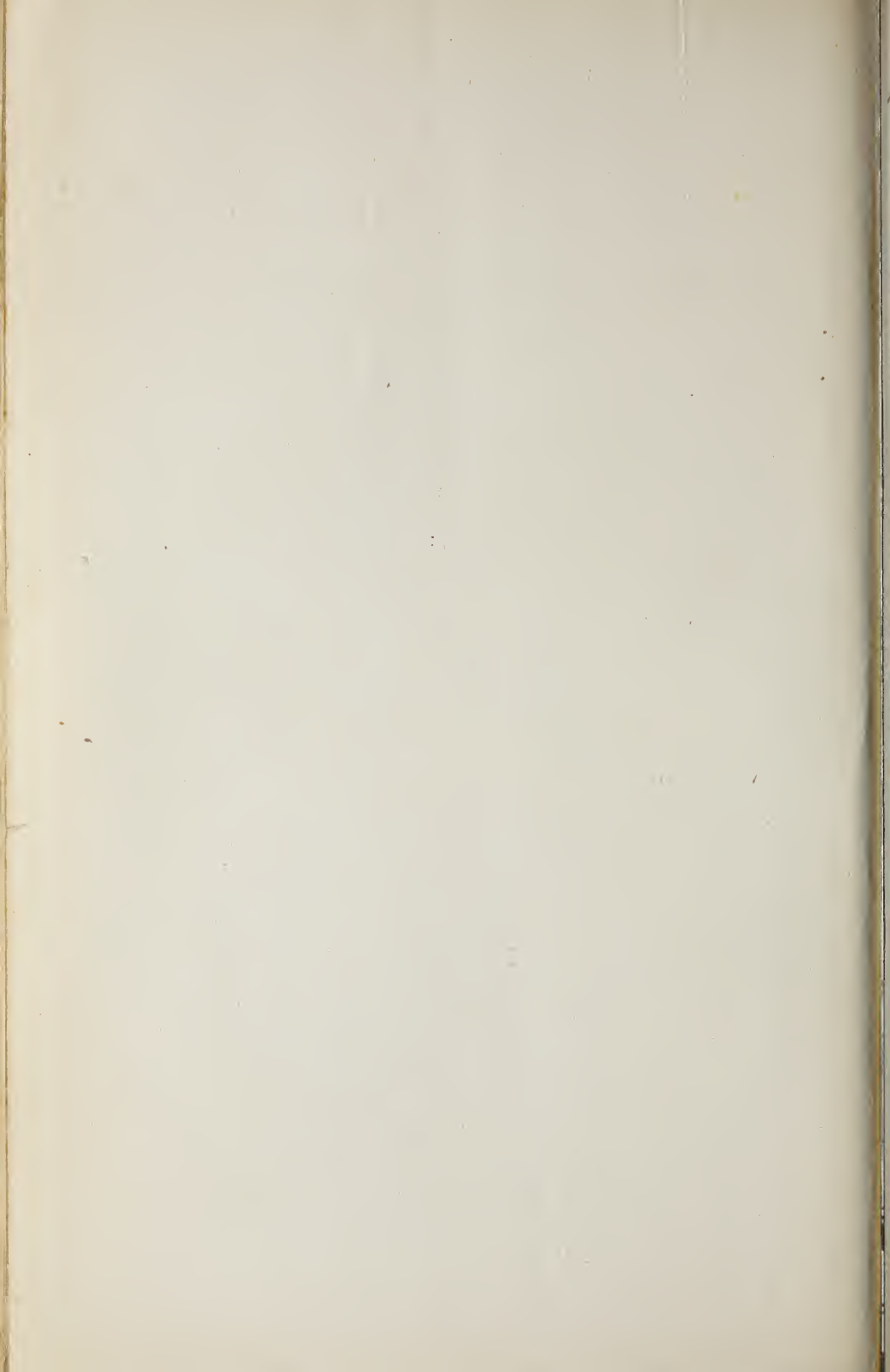
ALSO, THE

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1898.

AYER, MASS.:
HUNTLEY S. TURNER, BOOK AND JOB PRINTER.
1898.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES
OF THE
TOWN OF SHIRLEY,
WITH OTHER
STATISTICAL MATTER,
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1898.

AYER, MASS.
HUNTLEY S. TURNER, BOOK AND JOB PRINTER.

TOWN OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 1897-98.

Town Clerk,
Jonas Longley.

Selectmen,
D. Chester Parsons, John W. Farrar,
Edward J. Stevens.

Treasurer,
Henry Edgarton.

Assessors,
Thomas L. Hazen, D. Chester Parsons,
Edward J. Stevens.

School Committee,
Jacob P. Hazen, Henry Edgarton,
Rev. Alfred N. Blackford,* Mary M. Nickless.

Trustees of Public Library,
William H. Wilbur, M. M. Nickless,
M. J. Conant, N. J. Rowell.
M. J. Hazen, Rev. Alfred N. Blackford.*
Rev. Joseph Torrey, D. D.

Tax Collector,
S. B. Scott.

Highway Surveyor,
John M. Adams.

* Resigned.

ANNUAL REPORTS.

REPORT OF THE SELECTMEN.

SHIRLEY, MASS., March 1, 1898.

To the Voters of the Town of Shirley:

GENTLEMEN: The Selectmen hereby submit the following report of their work for the year ending March 1, 1898:

Summary of Expenditures.

Poor	\$1840 78
Schools	5081 22
Highways	1042 40
Bridges and railings	148 22
Snow	333 31
Memorial Day	25 00
Interest	660 91
Old Engine Co.	25 00
State aid	618 50
Soldiers' aid	35 90
Cemetery trust	146 89
Town cemetery	116 05
Library	250 21
Transportation books	25 00
Fire Department	335 86
Brush fires	178 22
Salaries	507 00
Incidentals	761 80
Village bridge	8 46
State road	24 00
Street lights	160 90

New school-house	\$1577 25
Cattle inspection	59 37
Insurance	12 90
Repairs town house	200 00
Maple Street drain	575 96
Seymour claim	262 50
Temporary loans	5000 00
State tax	525 00
County tax	710 46
	<hr/> \$21,249 07

Estimates for Year 1898-99.

Schools	\$2700 00
School supplies	200 00
Transportation	50 00
Tuition	200 00
Repairs	200 00
Fuel	200 00
Superintendent	200 00
	<hr/> \$3750 00
Highways	1000 00
Bridges	100 00
Railings	50 00
Poor	2000 00
Fire Department	300 00
Interest	675 00
Library	300 00
Cemeteries	100 00
Memorial Day	25 00
Street lights	200 00
Enforcement of law	100 00
Salaries	500 00
Incidentals	800 00
Snow	300 00
	<hr/> \$10,200 00

FINANCIAL CONDITION.

Indebtedness.

First National Bank of Ayer	\$2000 00
Parker School Fund	2657 57
Israel Longley School Fund	1000 00
North Middlesex Savings Bank	6400 00
Universalist Society, note	1000 00
G. S. Wells, note	200 00
Interest	131 20
Outstanding orders	723 08
	<hr/> \$14,111 85

Assets.

Cash balance	\$645 27
Due from Collector, 1896	464 99
Due from Collector, 1897	979 48
Due from State for State aid	718 50
Due from State for State poor	597 45
Due from State for fees cattle inspection	29 68
Due from State, corporation and bank tax	534 13
Due from Mr. Foster, aid to Mrs. Foster	111 95
Due from Town of Amesbury	3 50
Due from Town of Ayer	63 87
Due from Town of Lancaster	122 30
Due from Town of Lunenburg	29 40
Due from State share for Superintendent of Schools	238 30
Interest, Trust funds	132 21
Due from Town of Maynard	7 30
Due from Town of Clinton	6 00
	<hr/> \$4684 32
Net debt	<hr/> \$9427 53

TRUST FUNDS.

Deposited with the International Trust Co.

Israel Longley School Fund	\$6000 00	
Israel Longley Cemetery Fund	500 00	
Jerome Gardner Cemetery Fund	500 00	
Parker School Fund	5040 57	
John Henry Cemetery Fund	500 00	
	————	\$12,540 57

In Hands of Town Treasurer.

George Rice Cemetery Fund	\$100 00	
Nathaniel Day Cemetery Fund	200 00	
George Chandler Cemetery Fund	100 00	
	————	\$400 00

D. CHESTER PARSONS,
JOHN W. FARRAR,
EDWARD J. STEVENS,

SELECTMEN OF SHIRLEY.

POOR.

Appropriation	\$2000 00	
Received from State	267 44	
Received from towns	117 66	
	<hr/>	\$2385 10
Amount due from State	\$597 45	
Amount due from towns	80 67	
Amount due from individuals	111 95	
	<hr/>	\$790 07
		<hr/>
		\$3775 17
Cost of town poor	\$1437 82	
Cost of State poor	322 29	
Cost of poor, settlement elsewhere	80 67	
	<hr/>	\$1840 78

Aid to Charles E. Wheeler.

Worcester Insane Asylum	\$127 75
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Aid to Fred Wheeler.

Worcester Lunatic Hospital	\$131 92
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Aid to Mary Brusco.

Conant Bros. & Co.	\$102 00
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Aid to Daniel Holden.

Town of Harvard	\$25 95	
H. B. Royal	5 50	
J. F. Brown	14 00	
	<hr/>	\$45 45

Aid to Mrs. McGuinness.

D. C. Parsons	\$98 20	
Coleman & Drury	2 19	
G. M. Ballou	10 00	
	<hr/>	\$110 39

Aid to Benjamin Farmer.

Town of Harvard	\$183 08	
H. B. Royal	16 25	
J. F. Brown	2 50	
Thaddeus Balcom	56 00	
J. W. Farrar	2 00	
	<hr/>	\$259 83

Aid to Mrs. A. W. Butler.

City of Lawrence	\$6 94
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Aid to Mrs. Andrews.

Town of Harvard	\$185 27	
H. B. Royal	11 50	
Mrs. L. West	56 00	
J. F. Brown	2 50	
J. W. Farrar	3 75	
C. J. Pierce, M. D.	1 50	
	<hr/>	\$260 52

Aid to Levi Blood.

Mrs. T. L. Newman	\$104 20	
C. J. Pierce	22 00	
J. W. Farrar	10 85	
Mrs. L. West	20 00	
	<hr/>	\$157 05

Aid to Mrs. Tagin.

City of Lowell	\$112 05	
D. C. Parsons	20 00	
	<hr/>	\$132 05

Aid to Mrs. Burno.

H. O. Peasley	\$42 00
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Aid to Mrs. J. Gordon.

H. O. Peasley	\$8 25
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Miscellaneous.

S. B. Scott, aid to tramps	\$16 47	
D. C. Parsons	1 33	
Mrs. Butler	1 00	
D. C. Parsons, expenses in poor cases	17 63	
J. W. Farrar, expenses	5 00	
E. J. Stevens	7 25	
S. B. Scott	4 99	
	<hr/>	\$53 67

SETTLEMENTS ELSEWHERE.

Aid to Benjamin Nutting (Ayer).

Conant Bros. & Co.	\$12 32	
D. C. Parsons	10 80	
A. F. Fernald, M. D.	40 75	
	<hr/>	\$63 87

Aid to Jabez Jubb (Maynard).

Wm. Park	\$5 80	
S. B. Scott	1 50	
	<hr/>	\$7 30

Aid to T. Casey (Amesbury).

T. L. Hazen	\$1 50	
D. C. Parsons	2 00	
	<hr/>	\$3 50

Aid to Mrs. James Smith (Clinton).

C. J. Pierce, M. D.	\$6 00	
	<hr/>	\$80 67

STATE POOR.

Aid to T. Devarney.

A. F. Fernald, M. D.	\$94 25	
Conant Bros. & Co.	1 45	
	<hr/>	\$95 70

Aid to J. B. Eva.

J. F. Brown	\$13 50	
A. F. Fernald, M. D.	16 00	
D. C. Parsons	8 50	
	<hr/>	\$38 00

Aid to G. Gionet.

A. F. Fernald, M. D.	\$16 00
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Aid to J. Devarney.

A. F. Fernald, M. D.	\$12 00
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Aid to Mrs. Simard.

Conant Bros. & Co.	\$7 00	
H. O. Peasley	35 47	
D. C. Parsons	19 76	
	<hr/>	\$62 23

Aid to J. Bonner.

Conant Bros. & Co.	\$24 00	
A. F. Fernald	22 00	
	<hr/>	\$46 00

Aid to G. Sibley.

Conant Bros. & Co.	\$1 00
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Aid to Sarah Smith.

H. E. Lawrence	\$4 50	
Msry Bastin	3 00	
	<hr/>	\$7 50

Aid to J. Cormier.

Conant Bros. & Co.	\$5 21
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Aid to George Devarney.

D. C. Parsons	\$3 00
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Aid to Mattie Saleeni.

J. F. Brown	\$14 50	
Conant Bros. & Co.	1 15	
N. E. Tel. Co.	4 05	
Andrew Syria	5 50	
D. C. Parsons	10 15	
	<hr/>	\$35 35

Aid to I. Levalle.

Conant Bros. & Co.		30
		<hr/>
		\$322 29

STATE AID.

Jeremiah Flynn	\$48 00	
Mary Gately	48 00	
Mary A. Howard	48 00	
Julia O'Keefe	48 00	
Ann M. Lawrence	46 00	
George F. Lewis	48 00	
Wm. R. McClellan	48 00	
Johanna O'Neill	48 00	
Lydia Ramsdell	48 00	
Joel C. Neat	40 00	
Charles F. Smith	48 00	
Daniel Finnegan	48 00	
Henry T. Balcom	48 00	
Wm. A. Dodge	4 50	
	<hr/>	\$618 50
Amount repaid by State	\$6185 0	

SOLDIERS' AID.

Mrs. Gleason	\$39 50
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MEMORIAL DAY.

Appropriation		\$25 00
J. W. Farrar	\$20 98	
H. C. Sherwin, quartermaster	4 02	
	<hr/>	\$25 00

INSPECTOR OF CATTLE.

S. B. Scott	\$59 37
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FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Treasurer of Company		\$238 00
Conant Bros. & Co.	\$3 99	
C. H. Miner	1 75	
Knight & Thomas	1 20	
H. O. Peasley	7 41	
A. L. Noe, steward	6 25	
Fitchburg R. R.	81	
W. H. Crossman	3 35	
G. S. Wells	5 50	
J. W. Farrar	1 20	
Boston Woven Hose and Rubber Co.	59 40	
F. B. Harvey, supplies	2 00	
W. J. Walsh, service as engineer	5 00	
	<hr/>	\$335 86

BRUSH FIRE.

Cash paid sundry persons	\$178 22
Due from Town of Lunenburg	\$29 40

HIGHWAYS.

Appropriation		\$1000 00
J. M. Adams	\$509 55	
G. A. Adams	124 00	
M. Devarney	101 20	
C. J. Bruso	78 80	
G. C. West	85 27	
C. Logue	3 20	
Wm. McCool	9 12	
G. Allen	8 50	
Cummings & Shedd	10 80	
H. O. Peasley	5 83	
A. L. Parker	5 60	
C. H. Miner	9 60	
P. Mitchel	10 88	
H. E. Bruce	1 60	
E. G. Hammond	4 00	
O. Haradon	40	
J. Wilson	3 50	
E. A. Jenkins	6 40	
N. Brasseau	5 20	
W. H. Cram, gravel	3 40	
H. S. Clark, gravel	5 30	
W. F. Flewelling	2 00	
O'Brien	7 20	
Frank Clark	3 00	
H. Holden	4 80	
J. Bulger	50	
Frank L. Keith, gravel	10 00	
Julia A. Hazen, gravel	2 40	
Fitchburg Railroad, freight	40	
Frank E. Wheeler	7 20	
O. T. Lawrence	4 25	
D. C. Parsons	8 50	
	<hr/>	\$1042 40

BRIDGES AND RAILINGS.

Appropriation—Bridges	\$100 00	
Railings	50 00	
	<hr/>	\$150 00
G. A. Adams	\$16 15	
J. M. Adams	42 75	
M. Devarney	1 60	
E. A. Jenkins	11 12	
E. L. White	66 20	
J. Barian	1 60	
B. Morison	6 40	
H. Holden	2 40	
	<hr/>	\$148 22

SNOW.

Charles L. Page	\$2 78
Jos. Rivers	4 00
G. A. Adams	9 28
Daniel Vantig	3 52
Adolphus Bastin	2 40
E. J. Stevens	2 45
J. Cook	2 20
A. B. Cook	1 92
Edward Green	2 24
Oscar Lawson	2 24
H. S. Clark	3 80
J. C. Neat	3 76
C. W. Andrews	2 26
W. E. Thompson	1 60
J. P. Thompson	11 56
T. Gordon	32
Fred Quenty	2 72
L. E. Holden	6 80
J. H. Harold	4 80

G. C. West	\$3 29
J. W. Cronin	3 20
M. A. Cronin	1 70
E. Flanders	2 16
E. L. White	38 60
E. A. Jenkins	3 68
Hugh Mitchel	1 28
Herbert Holden	7 60
Walter Savage	40
H. S. Mitchell	3 97
P. Mitchell	5 12
P. Shucrowe	4 00
G. Stebbins	4 00
A. L. Parker	17 92
L. G. Coolidge	1 60
P. Quenty	3 22
F. LaPoint	3 20
F. Belin	3 20
Oscar Haradon	2 08
Oliver Quenty	3 20
Peter Quenty	2 72
H. Quenty	3 52
F. S. Holden	3 04
J. O'Donnell	64
N. L. Warren	1 44
Harry G. Holden	6 48
G. Holden	14 40
B. Congram	4 80
W. Crockett	1 60
E. S. Parker	2 00
A. R. Cummings	2 22
Wilber Jones	2 72
D. C. Parsons, sundry persons	6 08
J. W. Farrar	2 08
J. L. Sargent	5 04
Edwin Sargent	5 04

Roy Sargent	\$4 35
T. L. Hazen	3 60
J. M. Adams	34 00
L. E. Holden, 1896	2 56
E. R. Thompson, 1896	1 60
O. Haradon, 1896	72
G. L. Fairbanks, 1896	18 05
H. Holden	1 60
M. Gionet	1 12
J. M. Adams	12 70
J. Burno	1 12
D. G. Hurley	1 12
P. Shucrowe	1 12
T. Gordon	64
E. G. Hammond	1 12
	<hr/>
	\$333. 31

INTEREST.

Appropriation	\$675 00
G. S. Wells	\$10 00
North Middlesex Savings Bank	288 00
First National Bank Ayer	175 90
Universalist Society	27 07
International Trust Co.	159 94
	<hr/>
	\$690 91

INSURANCE.

H. O. Peasley, public library	\$12 90
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OLD ENGINE COMPANY.

J. F. O'Neill, treasurer, for fixtures	\$25 00
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TOWN INCIDENTALS.

S. Hobbs & Co., blanks	\$10 00
A. B. Sparrow, inspector	3 00
J. A. Hume, inspector	6 00
W. F. Russell, inspector	3 00
J. H. Logue, inspector	6 00
C. H. Miner, inspector	3 00
L. J. Farnsworth, inspector	3 00
H. C. Owens, inspector	3 00
J. F. Brown, services as sexton and reporting deaths	70 00
H. S. Turner, printing	112 10
D. C. Parsons, car fare	80
Estate of G. Cook, watering trough	3 00
J. P. Hazen, fire damage	20 00
Pratt Bros., assessors' notices	1 25
J. Longley, record book	3 25
E. O. Childs, recording deeds	1 44
H. E. Lawrence, watering trough	3 00
Universalist Society, payment on note	100 00
C. J. Pierce, M. D., fumigation	2 50
R. W. Savage, watering trough	3 00
W. M. Parks, constable, 1896	6 00
W. M. Parks, serving dog warrant, 1896	4 00
G. Farnsworth, inspector	6 00
W. E. Barnard, refreshments	1 00
A. S. Thayer, fees	9 40
S. Sandlin, constable services	12 40
E. O. Childs, recording deeds	2 77
H. C. Owens, distributing reports	3 00
G. L. Fairbanks, teams	11 75
T. L. Hazen, supplies	3 60
H. C. Owens, police services	10 00
W. H. Crossman	2 00

S. Sandlin, fees	\$13 95
W. Sherman, supplies	3 07
G. M. Ballou, supplies	1 70
Wm. M. Sargent, supplies	17 59
A. S. Thayer, police services	4 00
A. B. Cram, police services	2 00
H. C. Owens	11 00
Lyons & Co., supplies	8 25
C. H. Miner, police services	6 00
H. E. Lawrence, services as constable	15 60
J. Longley, express, etc.	1 85
Lovell Arms Co., police supplies	12 00
H. S. Hazen, inspector	3 00
J. W. Farrar, supplies	2 91
H. C. Owens, fees	3 50
P. A. O'Toole, fees	9 75
R. Pomfret, inspector	3 00
J. R. Gray & Co.	3 00
S. B. Scott, tax sale	47 49
Conant Bros. & Co.	62
J. Bulger, police services, etc.	6 00
G. W. Walker & Co., map	28
D. C. Parsons, cash paid telegrams, etc.	5 10
R. M. Priest, supplies	15
J. H. Turner, advertising	3 50
W. H. Wilbur, telephones, etc.	4 18
Fitchburg R. R., freight	1 23
J. W. Farrar, supplies	3 25
Wm. M. Park, serving dog warrant	3 50
S. B. Scott, services	3 00
N. E. Telephone Co.	6 70
National Express Co.	60
D. C. Parsons, expenses to Worcester	2 94
H. A. Esterbrook	2 75
W. J. Welsh, inspector	3 00

S. Sandlin, services as constable	16 30	
Wm. H. Cram, teams	5 00	
J. W. Evans, watering trough, 1896 and 1897	6 00	
J. Longley, recording births, deaths, etc.	24 15	
J. Longley, express and postage	1 62	
J. W. Farrar, care of town hall, etc.	4 40	
A. V. Thayer, police services	14 80	
E. L. White, watering trough	5 00	
E. L. White, wood	7 00	
Conant Bros. & Co., supplies	1 05	
J. E. L. Hazen, supplies	2 30	
H. Edgerton	8 65	
A. F. Fernald, M. D., fumigation	3 00	
A. F. Fernald, reporting births	3 00	
C. J. Pierce, M. D., reporting births	2 50	
H. E. Lawrence, services as constable	11 31	
	<hr/>	\$761 80

TOWN CEMETERY.

Income from Rice, Day and Chandler		
Funds	\$52 00	
Appropriation	25 00	
Appropriation for land	90 00	
	<hr/>	\$167 00

EXPENDITURES.

J. F. Brown	\$10 50	
P. Mitchel	1 50	
H. Mitchel	8 00	
H. S. Hazen	6 05	
M. W. Longley, land	90 00	
	<hr/>	\$116 05

CEMETERY TRUST.

Income Gardner Fund	\$19 00	
Income Henry Fund	19 00	
Income Longley Fund	19 00	
Appropriation	50 00	
	<hr/>	\$107 00

EXPENDITURES.

L. J. Papineau	\$10 50	
J. F. Brown	3 00	
C. H. Parmenter	8 80	
M. Devarney	5 25	
R. M. Priest	6 31	
A. F. Fletcher	2 00	
G. M. Ballou	15 21	
Parker & Bateman	95 82	
	<hr/>	\$146 89

SALARIES.

Appropriation		\$500 00
A. N. Blackford, School Committee	\$13 00	
J. P. Hazen, School Committee	35 00	
H. Edgerton, School Committee	35 00	
Mary M. Nickless, School Committee	15 00	
H. Edgerton, Treasurer	65 00	
J. Longley, Town Clerk	20 00	
J. Longley, Registrar	8 00	
D. C. Parsons, Selectman	75 00	
J. W. Farrar, Selectman	50 00	
E. J. Stevens, Selectman	50 00	
E. J. Stevens, Assessor	25 00	
T. L. Hazen, Assessor	45 00	
D. C. Parsons, Assessor	60 00	
W. J. Walsh, Registrar	8 00	
H. S. Hazen, Auditor	3 00	
	<hr/>	\$507 00

NEW SCHOOL-HOUSE.

M. Prue & Son	\$1172 46.	
J. M. Adams	9 75	
H. A. Sawtell	30 00	
N. Bodah	1 35	
O. D. Cass & Co.	346 69	
G. Z. Page	17 00	
	<hr/>	\$1577 25

REPAIRS TO TOWN HOUSE.

Wm. Edwards Slate Co.	\$200 00
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MAPLE STREET DRAIN.

J. P. Thompson, agent, labor	\$318 63	
D. W. Lewis, materials	180 72	
Parker & Bateman, civil engineers	29 01	
Osgood & Hart	34 00	
Fitchburg R. R., freight	5 80	
D. C. Parsons, cash paid for car fares, telephones, etc.	7 80	
	<hr/>	\$575 96

VILLAGE BRIDGE.

Appropriation	\$50 00	
F. Lawton, labor	\$4 00	
G. M. Ballou, lumber	4 46	
	<hr/>	\$8 46

STATE ROAD.

Appropriation	\$70 00
A. N. Cook, surveyor	\$24 00

LIBRARY.

G. F. Lewis, Janitor	\$13 00	
H. O. Peasley, supplies	8 34	
Conant Bros. & Co., supplies	12 18	
R. M. Priest, repairs	10 00	
W. M. Sargent	3 60	
Estes & Lauriat, books	89 59	
Cummings & Remington	18 88	
Ruth K. Burrage	9 00	
Mrs. E. H. Conant	17 11	
H. S. Turner	11 50	
Mrs. M. J. Hazen	3 29	
Mabel G. Hazen	12 00	
R. H. White & Co.	35 47	
John E. L. Hazen	5 00	
E. L. White	1 25	
	<hr/>	\$250 21

TRANSPORTATION OF LIBRARY BOOKS.

J. C. Ayers	<hr/>	\$25 00
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STREET LIGHTS.

Appropriations		\$175 00
H. O. Peasley, oil	\$21 91	
Damon & Gould, supplies	9 55	
D. C. Parsons, supplies	5 25	
Wm. H. Brown, supplies	1 44	
R. M. Priest, supplies	15	
H. C. Owens, care and lighting lamps	122 60	
	<hr/>	\$160 90

SEYMOUR CLAIM.

J. Seymour	\$224 41	
D. C. Parsons, time and expenses	38 09	
	<hr/>	\$262 50

GUIDE POSTS.

In accordance with the requirements of the law we submit the following report :

Guide posts have been maintained within the limits of the town, in compliance with Chapter 53 of the Public Statutes and Acts of Amendments thereof.

D. CHESTER PARSONS,
JOHN W. FARRAR,
EDWARD J. STEVENS,

SELECTMEN.

ENGINEERS' REPORT.

SHIRLEY, March 1, 1898.

To the Selectmen of the Town of Shirley:

Gentlemen—The Board of Engineers herewith respectfully submit their annual report.

Two fires have occurred during the year. The first during the early morning hours of April 8th, when the Fredonian Mill, the property of the Samson Cordage Company, was completely destroyed, causing a loss of \$40,000. The second was on the afternoon of May 27th, the house of the late Lucy Sanderson was partially destroyed by fire, causing a damage of \$500.

The company consists of thirty-three men, and the apparatus is in good condition.

A. S. THAYER,
C. R. WHITE,
A. A. ADAMS,

BOARD OF FIRE ENGINEERS.

ASSESSORS' REPORT.

We, the Assessors of Shirley, herewith submit our report :

Town appropriations	\$9,350 00
State tax	525 00
County tax	710 46
Overlayings	283 48
	<hr style="width: 100px; margin-left: 0;"/> \$10,868 94

Tax rate \$13.80 per \$1,000.

Value of personal estate	\$142,134 00
Value of buildings	347,970 00
Value of land	250,485 00
	<hr style="width: 100px; margin-left: 0;"/> \$740,589 00

Exempts	\$8,065 00
Number of persons assessed on property	253
Number of persons assessed on polls only	175
Total number of polls	380
Number of horses	235
Number of cows	320
Number of sheep	5
Number of other cattle	89
Number of swine	44
Number of dwellings	308
Number of acres of land	9,285
Number of fowls	2,442

THOMAS L. HAZEN,
D. CHESTER PARSONS,
EDWARD J. STEVENS,

ASSESSORS OF SHIRLEY.

REPORT OF COLLECTOR OF TAXES

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1898.

Tax for 1896.

Tax warrant	\$993 ¹ 38	
After tax	28 26	
	<hr/>	\$9959 64
Amounts of payments	\$944 ¹ 34	
Abatements	53 3 ¹	
	<hr/>	\$9494 65
Balance due town		\$464 99

Tax for 1897.

Tax warrant	\$10,868 94	
Amount paid to treasurer	9,889 46	
	<hr/>	
Balance due town		\$979 48

ABATEMENT OF TAXES

FOR THE YEAR 1896.

Harry Booker, taxed in Acton	\$2 00
Thomas Cameron, removed to New Brunswick	2 00
Charles Cleaves, 19 years	2 00
Wm. Crowley, taxed in Maynard	2 00
Mitchel Devarney, paid in Vermont	2 00
Jennie Dodson, overtax on personal property	1 59
F. W. Flewelling, overtax on real estate	3 43
Estate of C. Farnsworth, overtax on real estate	6 35
O. W. Hume, taxed in Fitchburg	2 00
George Marion, left town	2 00

W. G. McClellan, left town	2 00
Edward Pomfret, 19 years old	2 00
A. Scmedeggarrd, taxed in Groton	2 00
H. Wilkins, overtax personal prop- erty	32
F. A. Whittaker, taxed California	2 00
C. F. Smith, abated	2 00
C. A. Warren, taxed Marlborough	2 00
Frank Wheeler, taxed in Ayer	2 00
G. M. Bruce, not here	2 00
S. P. Carey, abated	2 00
P. Tarbell, overtax on real estate	3 81
Clara Blood, overtax on real estate	2 54
Alonzo Willis, taxed in Ayer	1 27
T. F. Gately, 19 years old	2 00
	<hr/> \$53 31

I hereby certify that the above list and the reasons are correct.

SAMUEL B. SCOTT,

SHIRLEY, MASS.

COLLECTOR OF TAXES.

MIDDLESEX, SS :

SHIRLEY, March 1, 1898.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this day.

D. CHESTER PARSONS,

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.

THOMAS L. HAZEN,

D. CHESTER PARSONS,

EDWARD J. STEVENS,

ASSESSORS OF SHIRLEY.

LIST OF JURORS FOR 1898-99.

The following list of Jurors has been prepared by the Selectmen for the acceptance of the Town at the Annual Meeting to be held March 21, 1898 :

Robertus F. Colburn,
Almond M. Holden,
Savillion W. Longley,
Francis B. White,
John E. L. Hazen,
Herbert E. Lawrence,
Alphonso B. Sparrow,
Herman S. Hazen,
John E. Gardner,

John C. Ayers,
Howard M. Hatch,
Augustus B. Cram,
James C. C. Parker,
Charles H. Andrews,
Benjamin S. Binney,
Edwin L. White,
Thomas L. Hazen,
James F. Brown,

Hiram S. Clark.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

1897.

RECEIPTS.

Mar. 2.	Cash on hand	\$1812 36
Mar. 2.	Cash received of S. B. Scott	94 45
Mar. 2.	Cash of S. B. Scott	156 21
Mar. 2.	Cash of G. S. Wells, order error	1 00
Mar. 6.	Cash of Geo. S. Burns, Bruso	35 00
Mar. 17.	Cash of Commonwealth of Massachusetts, corpora- tion tax	437 22
Mar. 27.	Cash of Louis Rowen, li- cense	6 00
Mar. 30.	Cash of S. B. Scott	144 42
Apr. 5.	Cash of S. B. Scott	135 00
Apr. 5.	Cash of Town of Amesbury	27 06
Apr. 5.	Cash of First National Bank of Ayer, note	1000 00
Apr. 28.	Cash of Town of Clinton	4 60
Apr. 28.	Cash of First National Bank of Ayer	1000 00
May 18.	Cash of Commonwealth of Massachusetts, conta- gious diseases	118 60
June 4.	Cash of First National Bank of Ayer	1000 00
June 25.	Cash of Herise Greenston, license	6 00
June 25.	Cash of S. B. Scott	26 76
June 25.	Cash of First National Bank of Ayer	1000 00
July 1.	Cash of International Trust Co., interest	231 94
July 3.	Cash of S. B. Scott	61 17

July 7.	Cash of G. W. Sanderson, clerk of court	\$3 47
July 27.	Cash of First National Bank of Ayer	1000 00
July 29.	Cash of S. B. Scott	298 61
Aug. 3.	Cash of S. B. Scott	194 42
Aug. 5.	Cash of S. B. Scott	66 93
Aug. 9.	Cash of Morris Miller, li- cense	6 00
Aug. 18.	Cash of S. B. Scott	302 80
Aug. 23.	Cash of S. B. Scott	388 05
Aug. 24.	Cash of Commonwealth of Massachusetts, paupers	156 84
Aug. 24.	Cash of Commonwealth of Massachusetts, inspec- tion of cattle	37 50
Sept. 1.	Cash of S. B. Scott	216 33
Sept. 15	Cash of Alvin Lawton, license	1 00
Sept. 18.	Cash of S. B. Scott	186 32
Sept. 21.	Cash of S. B. Scott	140 00
Sept. 28.	Cash of S. B. Scott	200 75
Oct. 1.	Cash of S. B. Scott	225 00
Oct. 7.	Cash of S. B. Scott	130 00
Oct. 12.	Cash of S. B. Scott	203 13
Oct. 16.	Cash of S. B. Scott	200 46
Oct. 19.	Cash of S. B. Scott	246 20
Oct. 19.	Cash of G. W. Sanderson, court	3 76
Oct. 21.	Cash of S. B. Scott	190 00
Oct. 23.	Cash of S. B. Scott	224 73
Oct. 25.	Cash of S. B. Scott	180 00
Oct. 27.	Cash of S. B. Scott	440 68
Oct. 29.	Cash of S. B. Scott	2325 23
Oct. 30.	Cash of S. B. Scott	932 11
Nov. 2.	Cash of S. B. Scott	1003 50

Nov. 8.	Cash of S. B. Scott	\$388 36
Nov. 8.	Cash of Geo. L. Wright, superintendent of fund	357 14
Nov. 9.	G. W. Sanderson, court	1 85
Nov. 30.	Cash of S. B. Scott	80 00
Dec. 11.	Cash of Commonwealth of Massachusetts, corpora- tion tax	136 99
Dec. 11.	Cash of Commonwealth of Massachusetts, bank tax	172 09
Dec. 11.	Cash of Commonwealth of Massachusetts, military aid	8 00
Dec. 11.	Cash of Commonwealth of Massachusetts, State aid	486 00
Dec. 24.	Cash of S. B. Scott.	144 05
1898.		
Jan. 1.	Cash of S. B. Scott	156 82
Jan. 1.	Cash of First National Bank of Ayer	500 00
Jan. 1.	Cash of International Trust Co., interest	242 32
Jan. 8.	Cash of S. B. Scott	115 00
Jan. 29.	Cash of S. B. Scott	84 38
Jan. 29.	Cash of Commonwealth of Massachusetts, school fund	381 28
Feb. 1.	Cash of County Treasurer, dog fund	126 15
Feb. 15.	Cash of S. B. Scott	141 92
Feb. 19.	Cash of S. B. Scott	213 88
Feb. 28.	Cash of S. B. Scott	186 95
Feb. 28.	Cash of S. B. Scott	82 85
Feb. 28.	Cash of City of Fitchburg	21 00

Feb. 28. Cash of J. W. Farrar, use
of town hall

\$19 00
————— \$21,037 64

1897.

EXPENDITURES.

Paid outstanding orders	\$133 62
Paid March orders	1192 41
Paid April orders	2624 60
Paid May orders	1144 44
Paid June orders	1491 68
Paid July orders	608 81
Paid August orders	807 27
Paid September orders	820 91
Paid October orders	1181 28
Paid November orders	7117 47
Paid December orders	768 61

1898.

Paid January orders	1095 10
Paid February orders	881 17
Paid State tax	525 00
	————— \$20,392 37

Cash on hand

\$645 27

————— \$21,037 64

HENRY EDGARTON,

SHIRLEY, March 1, 1898.

————— TREASURER.

AUDITOR'S REPORT.

SHIRLEY, March 7, 1898.

To the Citizens of Shirley:

I hereby certify that I have examined the accounts of the Selectmen, Town Treasurer and Overseers of the Poor, for the year ending March 1, 1898, and find them correctly kept, with proper vouchers for money paid out.

B. S. BINNEY, Auditor.

REPORT OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES.

The Library Trustees submit the following report of receipts and expenditures, also of condition and use of Library during the past year, and would suggest that the sum of \$300 be appropriated for the year ensuing :

Number of books in circulation March 1, 1898	2277
Number of books of reference March 1, 1898	305
Number of days library was open	51
Number of persons taking books	295
Number of books taken	4222

Receipts.

Town appropriation	\$250 00	
Receipts from fine money	15 90	
	<hr/>	\$265 90

Expenditures.

Express and freight books	\$1 35
Mr. Stebbins, care of lawn, etc.	4 80
Subscriptions to magazines	3 25
Cleaning library	1 80
G. F. Lewis, janitor	13 00
Conant Bros. & Co., coal	12 18
H. O. Peasley, supplies	8 34
Estes & Lauriat, books	89 59
Cummings & Remington	18 88
H. S. Turner	11 50
R. M. Priest	10 00
E. L. White	1 25
Wm. M. Sargent	3 60
Mrs. E. H. Conant, books	17 11
Ruth M. Burrage, librarian	9 00
Mabel Hazen, librarian	12 00

Mrs. M. J. Hazen, books	\$3 29	
J. E. L. Hazen, magazines	5 00	
R. H. White & Co., books	35 47	
	<hr/>	\$261 41
		<hr/>
		\$4 49

TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC LIBRARY,

BY MARY M. NICKLESS, SECRETARY.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT OF REGISTRATION.

MARRIAGES IN 1897.

Residence Shirley when not given.

- Jan. 1. Arthur W. Rockwood, Groton,
Sarah L. Farmer.
- Jan. 14. William J. Walsh,
Alice F. Carnes, Boston.
- Jan. 14. Wilfrid G. Nadeau,
Alice M. Sanderson.
- Jan. 16. Lyman B. Cotting,
Sarah A. Cogswell.
- Feb. 9. Samuel Bodah,
Charlott Genoit.
- Feb. 22. Edward Devarney,
Mary Grelis.
- May 31. Thomas C. Burrill,
Mary O'Brien, Ayer,
- June 16. Welcome H. Longley,
Bessie C. Barry, Barrington, N. H.
- June 23. Charles W. Milliken, Ayer,
May Hobart.
- July 4. Alfred J. Reopel,
Maggie Golding.
- Aug. 2. George A. Fanion,
Delia J. Simard.
- Aug. 4. Daniel O'Neil,
Mary Shea.
- Aug. 18. William P. Sargent, Athol
Jennie F. Andrews.
- Aug. 29. Levi Devarney,
Mary Pennissou.
- Aug. 30. William Jionet,
Victoria Lambert.

Sept.	1.	John Sprague, Harvard, Harriet Loomer.
Sept.	7.	Alton R. Lancy, Lunenburg, Estelle M. Brown.
Sept.	8.	George F. Buxton, Bessie A. Harvey.
Nov.	2.	Bernard Hart, Julia Coughlin.
Nov.	8.	Michael Bulger, Minnie Ginet.
Dec.	8.	Albert E. Blanchard, Alice G. Wilson.

BIRTHS.

Thirty-two births have been registered—twenty-one males and eleven females.

DEATHS IN 1897.

Birthplace Shirley when not given.

			YRS.	MOS.	DYS.
Jan.	3.	Flora A. Genoit			2
Jan.	22.	Lucy E. Sanderson, Southwick	75	1	29
Jan.	23.	Mary E. Harold, Ayer	20	10	27
Jan.	23.	Alex Casey		2	21
Mar.	10.	Rose Devarney		1	21
Mar.	13.	William Baker			2
Mar.	16.	Leonora L. Wright, Westford	84	4	26
Mar.	17.	John B. Eva, Canada	76		
Mar.	20.	William H. Igo, Medford	25	4	11
Mar.	24.	Daniel Holden	71		
Mar.	25.	Sylvia A. Porter, Lunenburg	77	2	29
Apr.	2.	Lyman B. Cutting, Holden	69	8	
Apr.	2.	Sarah A. Cutting, Lancaster	72	11	
Apr.	10.	Sarah Lawrence	78	10	26
May	19.	Still-born.			
May	19.	Mary E. Perry, Newton	23	8	

		YRS.	MOS.	DYS.
May 20.	Henrietta Bessey, Sandwich	71	3	16
May 28.	William P. Wilbur, Dover, Conn.	72	3	28
June 28.	Richard H. Collins, Chatham	84		1
July 28.	Hope A. Snell, Dartmouth	79	10	2
Aug. 8.	Agnes Simard, Canada	35	7	
Aug. 16.	Dexter Bruce, Marlboro	80	8	22
Aug. 16.	Henry Sidelow		4	12
Aug. 28.	Europe A. Steere, Oxford	43	10	28
Sept. 8.	Charles E. Parmenter		7	
Nov. 9.	Timothy Frye, Windham, Conn.	68		3
Nov. 24.	Nellie J. O'Neil, Lawrence	26	5	20
Dec. 4.	Charles Devarney			2
Dec. 9.	Mary A. Cormier		8	
Dec. 26.	Edward Richardson, England	59	10	13

Sixty eight dogs have been registered from May 1, 1897 to May 1, 1898,—sixty-five males and three females.

Amount of fees received, \$145.

JONAS LONGLEY, Town Clerk.

TOWN WARRANT.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

MIDDLESEX SS.

*To Jonas Longley, Clerk of the Town of Shirley,
in said County,*

GREETING :

In the name of the Commonwealth, aforesaid, you are hereby required by posting an attested copy of this Warrant at the Postoffice in Shirley, and a like copy in the Postoffice in Shirley Village, eight days at least before the time herein appointed for the meeting, to notify and warn all the legal voters of said Town, to assemble in the Town Hall, on Monday, the twenty-first day of March instant, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, to give in their votes on one ballot, for a Town Clerk, three Selectmen, and three Overseers of the Poor, three Assessors, Treasurer, one School Committee for three years, one School Committee for two years, two Trustees of the Public Library for three years, one Trustee of the Public Library for two years, two Auditors, Collector of Taxes, three Constables ; also, to vote Yes or No on the question : Shall license be granted for the sale of intoxicating liquors in this Town. The Polls will be open at ten o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon, and may be closed at three o'clock P. M., of said day. Also, to act on the following Articles :

ARTICLE 1. To choose a Moderator:

ART. 2. To choose all officers not required by law to be chosen by ballot.

ART. 3. To hear the report of the Selectmen and act thereon.

ART. 4. To see what sum of money the town will raise and appropriate for the support of schools, and the poor, highways and bridges, fire department, enforcement of law, interest on notes, library, cemeteries, Memorial Day, street lights, salary of officers, transportation of library books, and all necessary and incidental expenses of the town for the ensuing year.

ART. 5. To see what action the town will take in relation to the collection of taxes.

ART. 6. To see if the town will fix the salary of the Tax Collector or act thereon.

ART. 7. To see if the town will authorize the Town Treasurer to borrow money in anticipation of taxes or act thereon.

ART. 8. To see if the town will accept or alter the list of jurors as prepared by the Selectmen.

ART. 9. To see if the town will vote to choose a Park Commissioner.

ART. 10. To see if the town will vote to accept the provisions of Sections 267, 268, 269 of Chapter 417 of the Acts of 1893, and the Acts in the amendment thereof or act thereon.

ART. 11. To see if the town will vote to print the Assessors' valuation lists for the ensuing year or act thereon.

ART. 12. To see if the town will vote to employ a town physician or act thereon.

ART. 13. To see what action the town will take relative to the claim of George S. Wells.

ART. 14. To see what action the town will take relative to the claim against the Town of Lancaster for services rendered at forest fire, May 18 and 19, 1896, or act thereon.

ART. 15. To see if the town will vote to purchase of Mrs. Agnes Whitaker the lot of land adjoining the Village Cemetery, and raise and appropriate a sum of money therefor or act thereon.

ART. 16. To hear the report of the Committee on the Village Cemetery, for the laying out of new lots, etc., or act thereon.

ART. 17. To see if the town will vote to grant lots in the Village Cemetery to all persons who now have lots therein that the town has not voted to grant them or act thereon.

ART. 18. To see if the town will vote to build a row of horse sheds near to the Town House, and raise and appropriate a sum of money therefor, or act thereon.

ART. 19. To see if the town will vote to accept the legacy of the late Sally M. Page, or act thereon.

MEMBERS OF SCHOOL BOARD.

HENRY EDGARTON. Term expires 1898.

MARY M. NICKLESS. Term expires 1898.

JACOB P. HAZEN. Term expires 1899.

REV. W. N. BLACKFORD. (Resigned).

ORGANIZATION.

JACOB P. HAZEN, Chairman.

MARY M. NICKLESS, Secretary and Supply Agent.

CHARLES L. CLAY, Superintendent of Schools.

Residence, Harvard, Mass.

SCHOOL ASSETS.

Appropriations	\$3200 00	
Com. of Mass., Superintendent	357 14	
Longley fund	232 88	
Parker fund	191 88	
Com. of Mass., school fund	381 28	
County Treas., dog fund	126 15	
	<hr/>	\$4489 33
Com. of Mass., due $\frac{2}{3}$ year, Supt. 8-28th of \$1250.00		\$238 30

EXPENDITURES.

Teachers	\$3058 50	
Janitors	197 60	
Repairs	507 84	
Supplies	246 74	
Fuel	338 45	
Tuition	328 66	
Incidentals	82 00	
Superintendent	321 43	
	<hr/>	\$5081 22

SCHOOLS.

SUPERINTENDENT.

C. L. Clay	\$321 43
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TEACHERS.

Ethel L. Stratton	\$354 00
Mabel P. Conant	162 00
Lura A. White	378 00
Clara L. Coffin	216 00
Jennie R. Sanborn	402 00
L. M. Merriam	204 00
Addie M. Quimby	108 00
Minnie Holden	114 00
Grace M. Kilburn	216 00
Lillian F. Richardson	207 00
Bertha M. Willard	207 00
Abigail C. Hitchcock	132 00
Frank H. Dame	137 50
Viola Piper	110 00
Mrs. Gates-Lockhart	111 00
	<hr/>
	\$3058 50

JANITORS.

H. C. Owens	\$129 50
Forrest Stanton	21 35
W. J. Baker	30 00
Mary Bruso, cleaning	1 00
E. F. Sleeper	10 80
Alice Dawborn	4 95
	<hr/>
	\$197 60

FUEL.

Conant Bros. & Co.	\$220 54	
H. O. Peasley	15 74	
J. P. Hazen	55 12	
S. Farnsworth	45 00	
G. M. Ballou	2 05	
	<hr/>	\$338 45

TUITION.

Town of Ayer	\$288 66	
E. H. Conant	20 00	
C. H. Miner	20 00	
	<hr/>	\$328 66

SUPPLIES.

J. L. Hammett Co.	\$85 41	
Werner School Book Co.	8 00	
Fitchburg Railroad	1 08	
Conant Bros. & Co.	15 47	
Houghton, Mifflin & Co.	5 10	
Wm. Ware & Co.	1 00	
The Morse Co.	11 73	
The Educational Co.	8 87	
Ginn & Co.	34 72	
Massachusetts Bible Co.	1 60	
J. Whiteley	3 25	
C. L. Clay	6 49	
Silver, Burdett & Co.	14 92	
Wm. M. Sargent	24 48	
J. P. Hazen	2 45	
D. C. Heath & Co.	10 51	
American Book Co.	4 23	
National Express Co.	20	
Boston Supply Co.	3 50	
D. Harley	3 33	
	<hr/>	\$246 74

REPAIRS.

O. D. Cass & Co.	\$198 56
M. F. Prue & Son	7 80
H. O. Peasley	11 34
C. H. Parmenter	19 35
P. Shucrowe	10 75
H. C. Owens	19 55
O. W. Balcom	3 10
H. A. Sawtell	179 37
C. H. Miner	4 50
G. M. Ballou	14 02
W. H. Brown	23 81
G. A. Adams	1 00
Damon & Gould Co.	46
H. C. Cook & Co.	55
S. E. Parmenter	5 00
W. H. Crossman	6 59
Samson Cordage Co.	44
R. M. Priest	1 15
N. A. Holden	50
	<hr/>
	\$507 84

MISCELLANEOUS.

H. C. Owens, care truants	\$15 75
W. M. Parks, care truants	8 00
G. L. Fairbanks, team for music teacher	25 00
J. C. Ayers, transportation children	15 75
E. Bathrick, labor	1 00
J. S. Loucks, transportation children	16 50
	<hr/>
	\$82 00

At a meeting of the Board, held March 2, 1898, the Superintendent of Schools submitted his annual report, which was accepted and adopted as the report of the School Committee for the year ending Feb. 28, 1898.

JACOB P. HAZEN,
HENRY EDGARTON,
MARY M. NICKLESS,
SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

To the School Committee of Shirley :

I have the privilege to submit to you my third annual report of the schools for the year ending Feb. 28, 1898. This is also my prescribed duty.

The matters treated of in any school report of a town are of deep concern to the inhabitants thereof; I trust the present report will be read with interest and considered with thoughtfulness; at the same time and all of the time, let it not be forgotten that our public schools exist for the benefit of the children, and that every child living within the boundaries of Shirley is entitled to the best education the town can afford to give him.

FINANCIAL.

I. *Cost of Schools.* There has been expended for school purposes, less repairs and outside tuition for high school pupils, \$4,244.72. The average attendance has been 192. This makes the cost of each pupil's schooling \$22.11. Throughout the State the cost was \$26.10, with an average length of schooling 9 months and 6 days. Our schools have kept 35 weeks at the Center, North and East and 38 weeks at the Village. The amount paid for text books and supplies is \$246.74, or \$1.28 per pupil. This item throughout the State averages \$1.50 per pupil.

II. *Cost of Superintendence.* The Superintendent has charge of a district embracing Bolton, Boylston, Harvard and Shirley. The State fixes a minimum salary of \$1,500 a year, and pays back to the towns \$1,250. The remaining \$250 is paid from appropriations of the towns in the following proportions: six twenty-eighths by Bolton; five

twenty-eighths by Boylston; nine twenty-eighths by Harvard, and eight twenty-eighths by Shirley. Shirley's share is consequently, \$71.43. For the year ending June 30, 1898, the District Committee has allowed the Superintendent \$30 for postage and stationery expenses to be appurtenant in the above ratio.

THE TEACHERS AND THE SCHOOLS.

The spring term was carried on in each instance by the several teachers in charge when my last report was made. The completion of the new building provided for a needed accommodation for grades. The First Primary was given the lower room in the old house, the Second Primary the upper room; the Third Primary had number 8; the Lower Grammar school was put into the East room of the new building, and the Upper Grammar grades into the West room. The repairs and the new seats put into the brick house and the Center building, have been greatly appreciated by the pupils and teachers. These rooms are now very commodious and comfortable. I wish our tax-payers would see for themselves what proper wants for school purposes a little money has made it possible to have.

At the beginning of the fall term there were several changes in the teaching force. In the Second Primary Miss Conant withdrew. We were sorry to have her go. Miss Grace Kilburn was elected to the position. For the Grammar school, Miss Coffin announced that she was not a candidate for re-election; she had been in the school quite a number of terms, and will be remembered by her pupils for the enthusiasm she brought to her work, and the interest she took in her scholars. Miss Abigail C. Hitchcock took the school for the full term, at the close of which Mr. Frank H. Dame, a teacher of successful experience, was placed in charge.

This school does not receive the support it ought from parents when children enter it. There may be just as

many classes with eight pupils as with thirty-eight, and takes about as long to hear the recitations. In our Grammar schools, with one teacher, the course of a commercial school, for instance, cannot be added even if it were desirable. The average pupil of VIII grades standing is not usually considered able to take up, with advantage to himself, such work. To withdraw a pupil from the school that is doing good and the usual work of his grade, is to largely destroy the efficiency of that school. It discourages the teacher, creates uneasiness among the pupils who remain, and excites harmful criticism in the community. It remains with the parents, whether or not we shall have a good Grammar school at the Village. At the East Miss Quimby could not be persuaded to return. Miss Bertha M. Willard has had the school for two terms. Teachers would enjoy this school, and their lives made worth living and themselves self-respecting, if the children could be allowed to attend and made obedient to regulations prevailing in common communities.

Miss Lillian F. Richardson succeeded Miss Holden at the North. I think it is well understood that we have continued to have a good school; the children have been as they were last year, much interested in their work.

Miss Viola Piper has been at the Center school during the last term. This school is very discouraging to any good teacher, from the irregular attendance of some of its older pupils. Of course this is a matter of parental control. At the present time, we have the best corps of teachers through all the schools that we have had since I have been connected with them.

A GOOD SCHOOL.

What constitutes a good school? What are the necessary conditions under which every pupil can make the greatest advancement? I think we shall agree that there must be the harmonious working together of these three

essential factors—the children, the parents and the teacher. The efforts of the best teacher can be easily thwarted by the insubordination of the pupils, or the interference of the parents; while, with the sympathy and co-operation of parents, securing as they may the regular attendance and obedience of their pupils, even “a poor teacher” will give better results, and of infinitely greater advantage to the children than we get where the opposite conditions prevail. The whim of the children, the prejudice of neighbors, etc., if allowed to supercede more vital interests, will destroy the efforts of the best teacher on earth, and do the greatest harm to the child.

For parents “to take sides” with pupils in every trivial matter, to criticize the teacher in their presence, to dictate for them courses of action without regard to the teacher’s wishes or directions is a sure way to defeat the right purposes of pupils and teachers, to subvert all authority, and hinder the development of the true end of school government, which is self-government. When any trouble arises at school in which any child is involved, it is in the spirit of this enlightened age and my immediate duty to myself, to my child, to the teacher, to the school and to my neighbors, who at least are especially interested with me in having the best school possible, to seek a harmonious adjustment of the matter. It is so much better for my child, at least, to allay trouble than to stir it up.

It is the lack of sympathetic co-operation on the part of parents that is a great cause of the lack of the improvement and progress in our schools, which we have a reasonably right to expect, when so much is done and provided for them.

ATTENDANCE.

With 70 per cent. of our children living in the village, “within a stone’s throw” of the school-houses, it seems to me that our percentage of attendance is lamentably low.

Does it gauge approximately the estimation in which education is held by the people of Shirley? I can hardly think so, though it is evident that our children are allowed to let too large a share of their precious young school opportunities run to waste. For the four weeks ending January 29 the 199 school children of Shirley lost 95.9 half-days, equal to the schooling of a child for three years of 32 weeks a year. All this immense loss was apparently for no good reason.

Is there a parent in Shirley who does not believe the following? "The school in all its work seeks to help the home by what it teaches the children, and not the least of its lessons is that of the value and power of regular attention to duty. The child's regular attendance at school, the keeping unbroken of his interest in school work, the impressing upon him the necessity of his faithful daily performance of school work, are influences shaping him toward faithful, ambitious and successful manhood."

"Fidelity to duty, obedience to law, and respect for the rights and feelings of others are taught in our schools, and all should lend a helping hand to the teachers in inculcating these principles."

"It is just as necessary that all (of a class) should learn the same lesson at the same time and go on to the next, as it is that the lesson should be learned at all."

"Promptness in meeting our engagement we consider a virtue in a person, and if our children be trained in the exercise of this virtue, its practice will be much easier in after years. If a child attends school, he shall be there at the time appointed for the beginning of the services, and should be taught by parent as well as teacher, that it is a misdemeanor not to be there. He should be taught that 'punctuality is one of the levers that rule the world,' and that in all the vocations of life it is essential to highest success."

ADORNMENT OF SCHOOL-HOUSES.

In many of the cities and larger towns educational associations are being formed, looking toward the betterment of the schools in various ways. One thing that engages the attention of these societies is the interior decorations of school-houses. If it is deemed essential, or even advisable, "to bring the higher influences of music, art, science and literature into closer relations with the schools" in large places, where museums and art galleries abound and shop windows are full of beautiful pictures, how much more is something needed in our country towns, where even in the most favored homes good specimens of the best art are rarely found. The tinting of the walls and ceilings is a step in this direction, and it costs no more to add "a bit of color."

"Surround young people during school hours with pictures, paintings and statuary set off by tinted walls, and the silent beauty irradiating the refrain will quicken and purify the taste without ever encroaching upon school time, or interfering with school work."

I wish it might be the great pleasure of the Superintendent to be able to acknowledge annually the gifts of pictures, photographs, etc., from public-spirited men and women who are interested in the town and its schools, to be placed in our several school rooms, where they shall give pleasure and instruction to many children.

CARE OF SCHOOL-HOUSES.

The teachers with much reason have frequent complaints to make about the care or want of care of their school rooms. These should be kept about as clean as well-regulated home rooms, ever presenting as they must an object lesson, in order or disorder, dirt or cleanliness, according to their condition. Next to the home of the child, the school should be the most beautiful and best-loved spot in

the world, whose threshold should be crossed with something of a reverend step. To help inspire a proper feeling every school-house should be kept clean and made attractive.

When the several janitors are engaged it should be stipulated that the school-house shall be kept in good order; fires built in season to have the room sufficiently warm when it is time for school to begin; the floors thoroughly swept twice a week at least, and every day if needed; chalk troughs cleared out; the walls and ceilings brushed off once a month; the seats, desks, chairs, window-sills, tops of mop boards, etc., dusted with a cloth, not switched with a brush, all to the satisfaction of the teacher in charge.

A sink, water-basin, soap, towels with means provided for washing them, a mirror and a comb should be in every school-house. One of the best lessons that we can teach our boys and girls, and one that I see needed to be applied about every visit I make to a school, is that they should keep themselves neat and respectable. The small item of expense involved would be more than saved in keeping school books neat and respectable, which we often now find disgustingly dirty.

PREPARATION BY TEACHERS.

These days teaching is something more than "hearing lessons" and "keeping school." Our best teachers find it necessary to give a large amount of time "out of hours" in the daily preparation of work. What subject to present, and how to present it, even in the lowest grades should be a matter of daily study on the part of the teacher. A method of last year or of last term, perhaps, may not be the best one for the children of this year and this term. Educational papers, school journals, county conventions, state institutes, the home teachers' meetings and visiting days are all needed and appreciated by the wide-a-woke progressive teacher. It lies with the School Committee to

say whether or not teachers shall close their schools to attend any of these meetings. The home teachers' meetings we are holding at present on Saturday mornings.

HOME-WORK.

All children cannot do the same amount of work and accomplish the same tasks in the same time. Parents sometimes complain that their pupils are held back because there are "drags" in the class. Home study may be profitably done by the two extremes of a somewhat large class; by "the bright ones" in order to pass to an advanced grade before the time of yearly promotion, or for work outside the usual course; by those who need extra lessons and drill upon principles which have been taught in school. Another object for the last class is to train them to work independently. It seems to me that during school time all the energies of the school child should be devoted to the main work of his existence, namely, getting an education, the preparing himself to best enjoy and to get the most out of the life opening before him. But home-work done *for* the pupil defeats the end for which it is usually given.

SCHOOL LEGISLATION.

There is before the present legislature an act, House Bill 209, relative to school attendance and truancy, which I trust will become a law. The town of Shirley is especially interested in this proposed legislation; a pupil asking to have his tuition paid at a high school in some other town must have "completed the course of instruction provided by the former town, and in the opinion of the Superintendent of Schools or the School Committee of said former town, is properly qualified to enter such high school;" then it is proposed to establish parental schools under the care and at the expense of the state, in place of the present truant schools maintained by the county, to which "habit-

ual truants, habitual absentees or habitual school offenders" shall be admitted and schooled without expense to the towns from which such pupils are sent ; further "school attendance officers" are to take the place of and perform the duties now attempted to be performed by truant officers, but under such conditions as will make their services much more effective, it is hoped. I think the passage of this bill would help us raise our percentage of attendance in some of our schools.

VERTICAL WRITING.

To do a thing because about everybody else does it, is only to go where "wide is the gate and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction;" but a style of penmanship that is "natural" to the child, easier to acquire than any other, and more legible, is sufficient reason for adapting it. The Committee allowed me to introduce vertical writing into the lower grades in September. It is too early to show many good specimens, but we hope to have some creditable results of the change by the end of next term. We selected the National System.

READING.

And now abideth these three, reading, writing, and 'rithmetic, but the greatest of these is reading. It is the foundation of all studies. I am convinced that we do not give time enough to it in the lower grades. It should be the chief mark of the pupil in the primary classes. At the end of the fourth year all of our pupils ought to be able to read any ordinary English prose. In no branch of school study has there been a greater improvement in material and methods as in learning to read. The days of "I go up" and "Do I go up!" are gone with the a b c method.

Such reading matter as will form a task for good books in later years is now provided for the youngest children in our schools. Miss Burt says, "That fifty per cent. of all

children who enter school leave before the age of eleven, that seventy-five per cent. have left at the age of twelve, and that they go from school without any literary discrimination, without any basis for directing future reading, are large and significant facts, and should call forth the earnest co-operation of all educators. It is the one office of reading in school to give the child that which will enable him to educate himself as far as reading will do it, and any child who leaves school even at the age of ten, without any outline in his mind which shall serve him as a basis for future reading, either systematic or desultory, a plan by which he can go on educating himself indefinitely and intelligently, has been defrauded of the one thing which makes school worth attending."

All books may be divided into three classes: 1. Those that are dissipating and pernicious. 2. Those that are harmless but not helpful. 3. Those that are elevating and character forming. Our boys and girls have no use for the first, no time for the second, but should be taught of what the third class consists and how to make close friends of it. The school aims to do this and to teach the children to store their minds with the best things in literature.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

The thanks of the town are due to Mr. J. P. Hazen for the gift of the gong on the new school building; to those friends in the East district, who, by private subscriptions, secured funds enough to improve the interior walls of the school building in that part of Shirley; to Mr. Chas. E. Young who donated a copy of Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, which was put into the North school, April 30, 1897; to Messrs. M. F. Prue & Son for the flag, which floats over the new building.

FINALLY.

I wish to express to you, members of the School Committee, my appreciation of the unfailing courtesy with which you have considered my suggestions, and of the confidence you have reposed in me. To teachers, parents and citizens, whose loyalty to the schools has been unquestioned, and whose support I have so generously received, I acknowledge my indebtedness. The children always greet me so pleasantly, that it is a pleasure to work with and for them, and to be a slight influence in their unfolding minds. I wish to subscribe myself, their willing and obedient servant.

Respectfully submitted,

CHAS. L. CLAY,

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.

HARVARD, Feb. 28, 1898.

REPORT OF MUSIC TEACHER.

To the School Committee of Shirley:

Perhaps the best way for a lover of music to learn just what is being accomplished in this department in the public schools of your town would be to visit the First Primary school at the Village, and then listen to the singing of the Upper Grammar grade.

The work obtained from this Primary school since last September has been exceptionally good; the class has just commenced singing easy work in the nine different keys. The Second Primary is also singing in the nine different keys, while the Intermediate school is commencing two-part work, in which it is especially interested.

The Lower Grammar is singing in one, two and three parts, and has studied the chromatic and minor scales. The Upper Grammar is studying songs composed of soprano, alto, tenor and bass. The class is using Ginn's Coda, and Ditson's Octavo Music, and Silver and Burdette's Beacon Series.

The fewer grades a teacher has the better should be her work in music, other things being equal. At the Center, the work has been very good with the little ones. At the North, where the pupils are more nearly of an age, I have found every boy and girl doing his and her best. Songs are taught in each grade.

One year ago there were a number of children at the East school who could not sing the scale correctly; most excellent work has been done in bringing these voices into line.

One feature of this work in the schools of your town is worthy of special mention. I refer to the life, the *heartiness*, with which the different classes, almost without exception, enter into their singing. During my last two visits to the Shirley schools, I noticed particularly, to see if all were taking part in the lesson. In five schools every

boy and girl was singing; in the remaining three schools I found but seven pupils who were not singing at all, and four of these were paying attention to the lesson. I have seen each class once in two weeks.

I earnestly desire to thank the teachers for their hearty co-operation in this work during the past year.

Let it be our aim to do our work so thoroughly, that each child shall grow to love more and more this divine art of music.

Respectfully submitted,

MRS. GATES-LOCKHART.

ROLL OF HONOR, 1897-1898.

The figures denote the number of terms perfect in attendance.

UPPER GRAMMAR.

Francis Boucher, 2	Delia Bruno, 1
Willis Conant, 1	Winnie Butler, 1
Sarah Conant, 1	George Pomfret, 1

LOWER GRAMMAR.

Arthur Casey, 1	Mabel Ford, 1
Lawrence Haggarty, 1	James Haggarty, 1
Barbara Hazen, 1	Moses Hunt, 1
Evelyn Miner, 3	Ezekiel Wilson, 2

THIRD PRIMARY.

Henry Boucher, 1	Harry Dumas, 1
Leo Meegan, 1	Annie McCool, 1
Gertrude O'Neil, 1	Eva O'Neil, 1
George Wilson, 1	

SECOND PRIMARY.

Edward Adams, 1	Rodney Brown, 2
Clara Penesau, 1	Ernest Theilig, 1

FIRST PRIMARY.

Otto Badstübner, 2	Annie Haggarty, 1
Lester Hume, 1	Annie Theilig, 1
Lester Rivers, 1	

CENTER.

Herman Willis, 1

EAST.

Clara Dale, 1

David Dale, 1

Lillian Dale, 1

Ralph Jenkins, 1

NORTH.

Nellie Cronin, 1

Annie Cronin, 1

Roy Hatch, 3

Alice Dawborn, 1

Katie Cronin, 1

Hattie Farrar, 1

Earl Sleeper, 1

DEDICATION

OF

NEW SCHOOL BUILDING

MONDAY, APRIL 19, 1897

TO BE HELD AT THE ORTHODOX CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH AT
TWO O'CLOCK P. M.

ORDER OF EXERCISES.

Charles L. Clay, Superintendent of Schools, will preside.

Organ Voluntary.

Anthem.

Invocation,

Rev. Joseph Torrey, D. D.

Response.

Report of Building Committee, with the delivery of the Building to the
Town, by Jacob P. Hazen, Chairman of Building Committee.

Acceptance of the Building and delivery of the keys to the School
Committee, by D. Chester Parsons, Esq., Chairman of Board of
Selectmen.

Acceptance of keys in behalf of School Committee, by Rev. Alfred N.
Blackford, Secretary of School Committee.

Solo—Selected,

Mrs. C. F. Edgarton

Address,

Hon. George J. Burns

Music by the School.

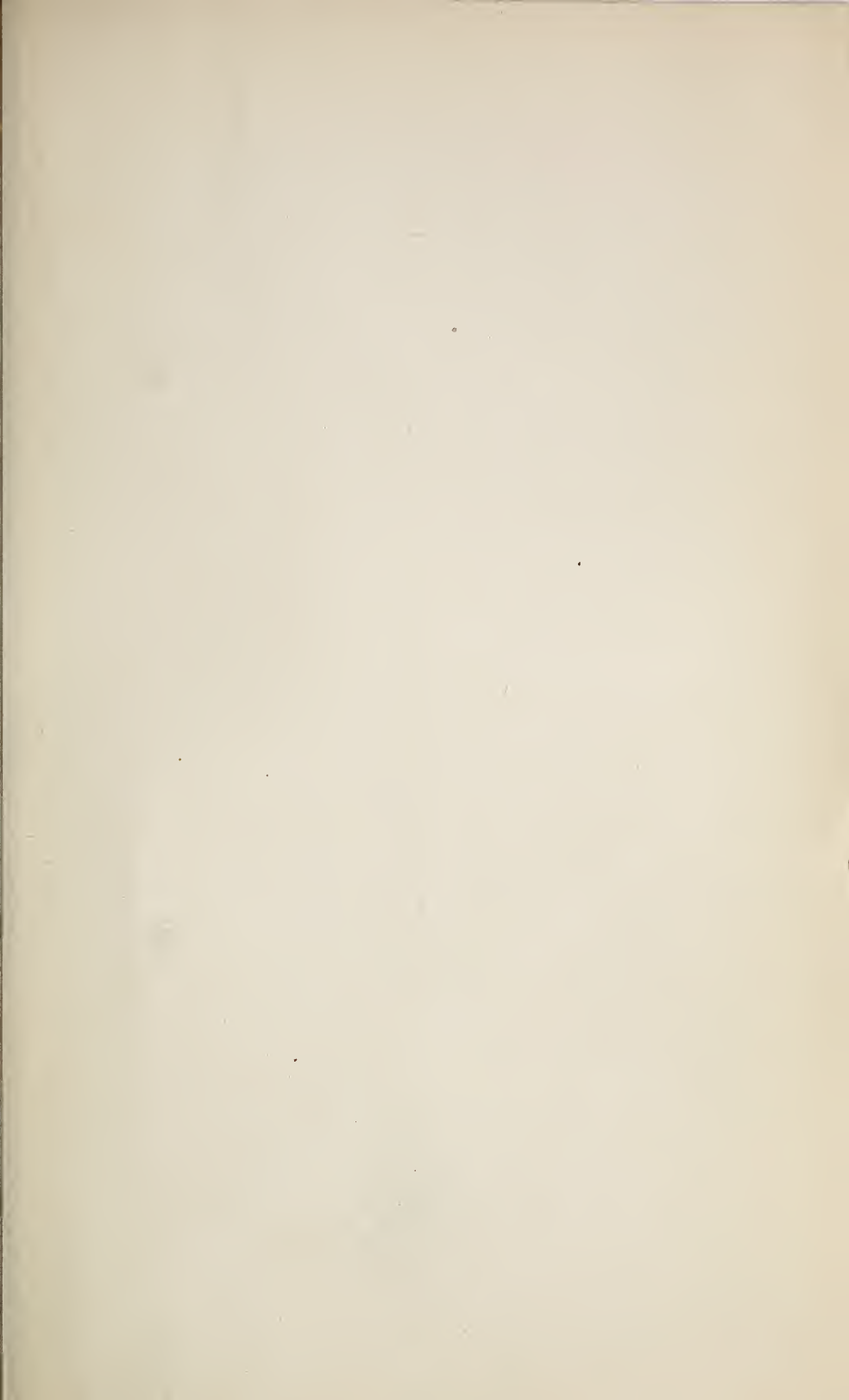
The Building will be open for inspection from 1 to 2, and 3.30 to 4.30 P. M.

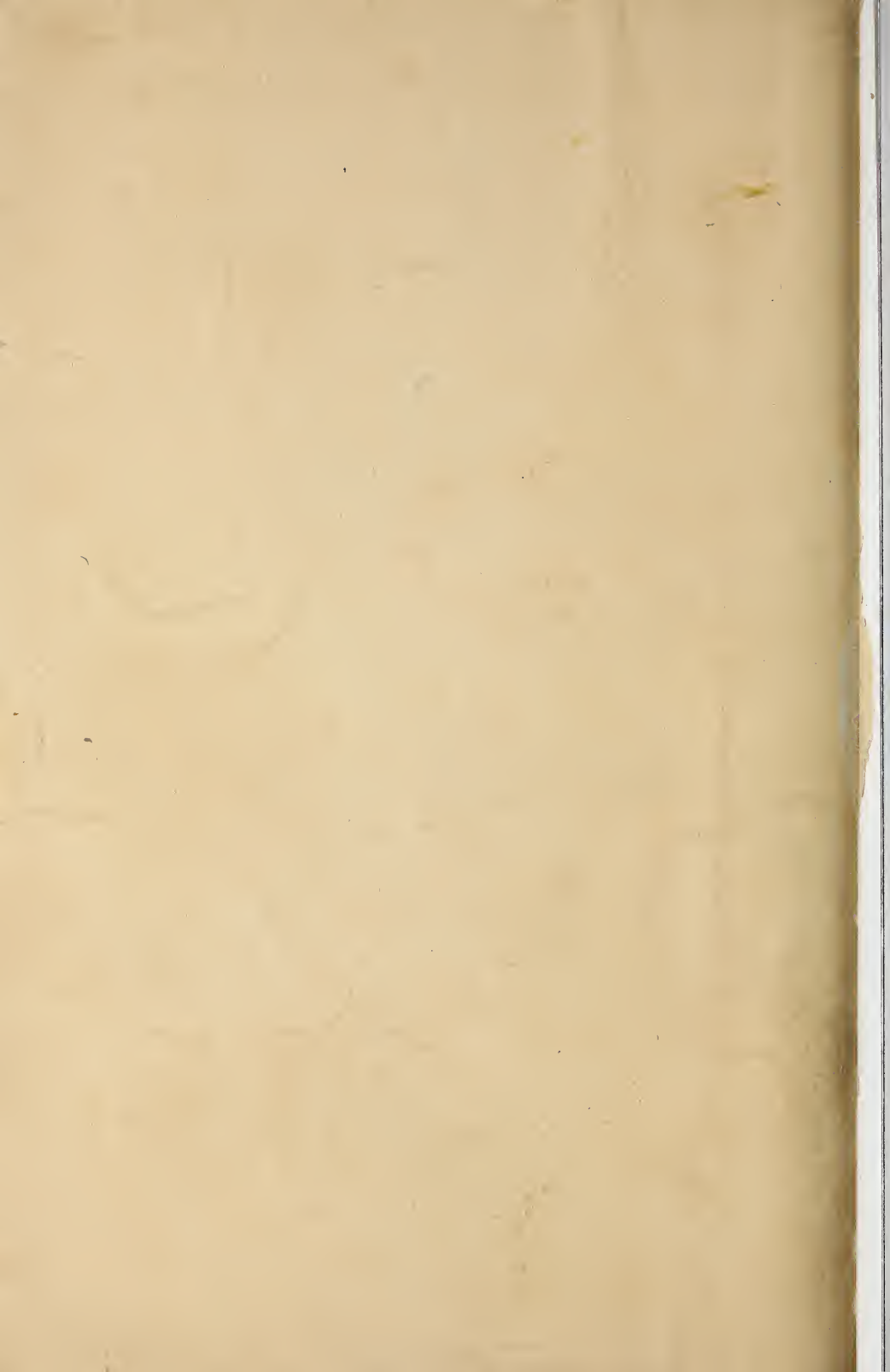
LIST OF TEACHERS, 1897-98.

SCHOOLS.	TEACHERS.	WHEN APPOINTED.	WHERE EDUCATED.	SALARY.
Upper Grammar,	{ Clara L. Coffin	April 1895	Bridgewater Normal	\$12 00
	{ Abigail C. Hitchcock	Aug. 1897	Bridgewater Normal	10 00
Lower Grammar,	{ Frank H. Dame	Nov. 1897	Bridgewater Normal	12 50
Third Primary,	{ Jennie C. Sanborn	Aug. 1895	Salem Normal	10 00
	{ Ethel M. Stratton	Aug. 1896	Quincy Training	9 50
Second Primary,	{ Mabel P. Conant	Aug. 1896	Saxton's River Academy	9 00
	{ Grace M. Kilburn	Aug. 1897	Fitchburg Normal	9 00
First Primary,	{ Lura A. White	Sept. 1891	Framingham Normal	9 00
Centre,	{ Laura M. Merriam	Jan. 1897	Framingham Normal	9 00
	{ Viola Piper	Nov. 1897		10 00
East,	{ Addie M. Quimby	Nov. 1896	Littleton (N. H.) High	9 00
	{ Bertha M. Willard	Aug. 1897	Fitchburg Normal	9 00
North,	{ Minnie A. Holden	April 1895	Cushing Training	9 00
	{ Lillian E. Richardson	Aug. 1897	Fitchburg Normal	9 00

SCHOOL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 1898.

SCHOOLS.	Grades.	Weeks of School.	Pupils enrolled.	Average membership.	Average attendance.	Percent of attendance.	Pupils under 5.	Pupils bet. 5 and 15.	Pupils bet. 8 and 14.	Pupils over 15.	Half-days of absence.	Tardinesses.	Dismissals.	Visits by Committee.	Visits by Superintendent.	Visits by others.
Upper Grammar,	7-9	38	29	19.2	17.5	.91	0	26	17	3	535	67	72	11	27	28
Lower Grammar,	5-6	38	36	29.8	26.4	.89	0	36	36	0	618	125	98	12	26	27
Third Primary,	3-4	38	35	47.2	43.0	.91	0	35	31	0	1589	118	28	4	24	4
Second Primary,	2	38	43	33.5	30.2	.90	0	43	38	0	1040	43	30	9	25	43
First Primary,	1	38	59	31.5	29.9	.95	1	58	15	0	960	36	33	8	25	43
Centre,	1-8	35	22	19 0	16.6	.87	0	17	8	1	849	147	34	2	26	45
North,	2-9	35	19	14.0	13.4	.96	0	19	12	0	159	31	26	2	23	17
East,	2-9	35	18	15.4	14.5	.94	0	16	10	0	254	51	55	2	23	46
Totals,	1-9	295	261	209.6	191.5	.91	1	250	167	4	6004	618	376	50	219	253
Totals 1896-97,	1-9	257	265	203.0	183.0	.90	1	259	183	5	6311	350	236	13	158	178







1/28/2011

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GROUP-IN

